

MARIO BONI BARTALUCCI (*)

THIRD CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OLD WORLD MYZININAE

(HYMENOPTERA, TIPHIIDAE)

INTRODUCTION

Persevering in the study of the Myzininae, a lot of discoveries have been made; some critical investigations about the ARGAMAN's (1994) generic synoptical study are also performed, coming to the conclusion that a new generic and supra generic rearrangements are still more needful.

From the data so far recorded the limited distribution range of the most of the Old World species well emerges. Among the group *Mesa/Hylomesa* no representatives of the Oriental Region have been found in the Afrotropical and vice versa. In the Afrotropical Region only *Mesa picta*'s distribution ranges from Angola to Senegal; all the other taxa seem have hitherto much more restricted distributions. This trend is much more stressed in the remaining genera of the subfamily (absent in the Oriental Region), as the distribution areas are disjointed also at generic level: *Poecilotiphia* is restricted to the Southern Palaearctic area, *Parameria* to Northern Africa and Israel, the group *Iswara/Komarowia* to the desert areas of the Northern hemisphere, *Braunsomeria* and other not yet described genera to the austral Africa; only *Meria* and *Myzinella* seem widespread. Into the genus *Meria* only *Meria dorsalis* (Fabricius, 1804) (Northern Mediterranean area to Caucase and Russian steppes through Eastern Europe and Asia Minor) and *Meria cingulata* (Gerstaecker, 1857) (all over the Eastern Africa from Southern Africa to Erythrea) show a wider distribution range. We could argue that the more or less stressed brachypterous

(*) Museo Zoologico de "La Specola", Sezione di Entomologia, Università degli Studi, Via Romana 17, I-50125 Firenze (Italy) e-mail: bonibartaluccimario@hotmail.com

status of all the females of the Old World species (but of the *Mesa/Hylomesa* group) could be the limiting factor, seeing that in Myzininae the mating-carriage has never been observed.

METHODS

The morphological terminology mostly follows GAULD & BOLTON (1988), the body orientation used here in descriptions and drawings follows the GOULET & HUBER (1993) indications, while the wing terminology has been lent from BOHART & MENKE (1976). The frontal aspect of the head is performed perpendicularly to the virtual plane indicated by the line on the Fig. 159; the dorsal and lateral aspects, perpendicular to each other, are performed on the virtual plane of the occipital carina. Genitalia are settled and drawn in full immersion under water solution with tensioactive and conserved in a solidified drop of 5,5-dimethyl hidantoin formaldehyd (DMHF) on a transparent support. The drawings of the volsella and paramere show respectively its inner and outer aspect.

Some specifications have to be stressed to avoid misunderstandings about the terminology; following GOULET & HUBER (1993) the term metasternum refers only to the mesosomal sclerite, while the ventral sclerites of the metasoma have to be simply named "sternum (-a)"; the relative dorsal sclerites of the metasoma are named "tergum (-a)" while "metamere" refers to every entire single segment of the metasoma. The nomenclature about wings follows GAULD & BOLTON's advices (1988). Hair and punctuation have been overlooked in most of the drawings.

SEM pictures have been performed by Maurizio Ulivi at the "Centro di Microscopia elettronica e di microanalisi" of the University of Florence.

ABBREVIATIONS

ANSP = Academy of Natural Science, Philadelphia; BMNH = Natural History Museum, London; MHNG = Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève; CB = Collection Borsato; CP = Collection Pagliano; MNH = Museum Nationale Hungaricum (Magyar Természettudományi Múzeum), Budapest; MHNP = Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; MNCN = Museum Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid; MNHU = Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin; MSNG =

Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova; MSNP = Museo di Scienze Naturali di Calci (Pisa); MZUF = Museo Zoologico de "La Specola", Firenze; NMN = National Museum of Namibia, Windhoek; NNIC = National Namibian Insect Collection; NHMW = Naturhistorische Museum, Wien; OUM = University Museum, Oxford; SAM = South African Museum, Cape Town; SMNH = Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm; TAU = Tel Aviv University Museum, Tel Aviv; TM = South African Transvaal Museum, Durban; UZM = Universitets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen.

! = Types examined; AC = Anal Cell; BBS = Bent Bristles Stripe; BC = Basal Cell; E = Eye; GB = Genal Bridge; H_e = Head; LP = Labial Palp; MP = Maxillary Palp; OF = Oral Fossa; SAL = Supraantennal Lobes; SBC = Sub Basal Cell.

Into the descriptions of labels, *italic* characters mean handwriting.

Digits between round brackets in the chorological items indicate the number of specimens.

SYSTEMATIC PART

Mesa Saussure, 1892

Mesa Saussure, 1892: 244 (species typus: *Mesa heterogamia* Saussure, 1892; lectotype ♀: "Mozambiq" (Blue, printed) "*Mesa heterogamia* Sa. ♀" (autographic) "TYPE" (red) "c.ne de Saussure", "Lectotypus *Mesa heterogamia* Saussure, 1892 Boni Bartalucci des. 1998"; MHNG !)

Xilunka Argaman, 1994: 90, **n. syn.**

Taywola Argaman, 1994: 91, **n. syn.**

Established by DE SAUSSURE (1892) on female specimens from Southern Africa, this genus is confined to the Old World and its diffusion is predominantly tropical; the palaearctic fauna is absolutely marginal, with very few species. Only two species seem so far to lodge in Europe: *attica* Gorbатовsky, 1981 in continental Greece and *palestinella* Guiglia, 1963 in Rhodos.

The females of *Mesa* resemble females of *Myzinum* in the haired flagellum, well developed wings, forewing with expressed radial cell and very small pterostigma, antefurcal vein cu-a of hindwing and legs structure; otherwise they differ from each other because of the completely sunken hypostoma under the plane of the genal surface (in ventral aspect it protrudes out for its 3/4 in *Myzinum*), genal bridge always present (never so in *Myzinum*), waved but simple bordered major hindtibial spur (with a deep basal notch on the inner border in *Myzinum*), well expressed petiole and combed apical border of the metameres (Photo 1, from a female specimen of *Mesa capensis* (Lepeletier, 1845): "Swart Doring R. Namaqualand / 2-3.10.1966, S.A.M.;

South African Museum Capetown", SAM) (in *Myzinum* this is as simple as in Photo 2, drawn from a female specimen of *Meria tripunctata* (Rossi, 1790): "Italia: Toscana, Principina (GR), litor. su *Echinophora* sp., 4.VII.1990, Boni Bartalucci l.", MZUF). This character state, so far disregarded, is present into the Myzininae only in the females of *Hylomesa* Krombein, 1968 and *Austromyzinum* Brown, 1985; in the females of *Mesa* and *Hylomesa* the costal cell of the hind wing ends well before the meeting point of Rs vein with R vein, a character state uniquely occurring into the Myzininae; at last most of them lacks any light spot (but *picticollis* Morawitz, 1890 and *picta* n.sp.), while in *Myzinum* the females are normally well light spotted.

The closed mandibular socket (a character state present only in the males of two other species of different genera of the Old World fauna), the prepectal sclerite fused to mesepisternum (freely articulated in the other Myzininae) and the strong, almost always darkened, spines on the inner basal surface of the volsella are the best synapomorphies of the males of the group *Mesa/Hylomesa*.

In both of the sexes the labrum lacks any velum perpendicular to the main surface under the line of the strong bristles (Photo 3, from the same specimen as in photo 1) and the maxillary palps have three strongly elongated apical elements; in the males their length mostly gets up twice the length of the basal ones (Fig. 1, drawn from a male specimen: Malawi = "Njasaland. Mlanje. 2 Jan 1914. S.A. Neave; 1914-416; *Mesa heterogamia* ♂ Sauss – C.J-Guillarmod det.1949", BMNH) and are often whitish.

ARGAMAN (1994) in his generic synopsis of the Myzininae established two new genera into his section Mesinae, *Xylunka* and *Tayzola*, basing them respectively on *Cosila donaldsoni* Fox, 1896 (female) and *Mesa palestinella* Guiglia, 1963 (male); he so grounded them, in opposition to *Mesa*: "Male first tergum, beyond the petiole, at most as long as wide; with a right angle between declivity and dorsal disc (Figs 51-52). Female with metanotal disc produced backward over its apical truncation (Fig. 53)". I could not find any difference at all between the holotypus (female) of *Elis (Mesa) aliciae* Turner, 1912 (= *donaldsoni* Fox, 1896) and the female of *Mesa heterogamia* with respect to the metanotum; the former too has combed metameral border; the distinctive character for *Xilunka*, "occipital carina vanished dorsally", is present also in other species of *Mesa* (*ruficeps* Smith, 1855, *erythro-*

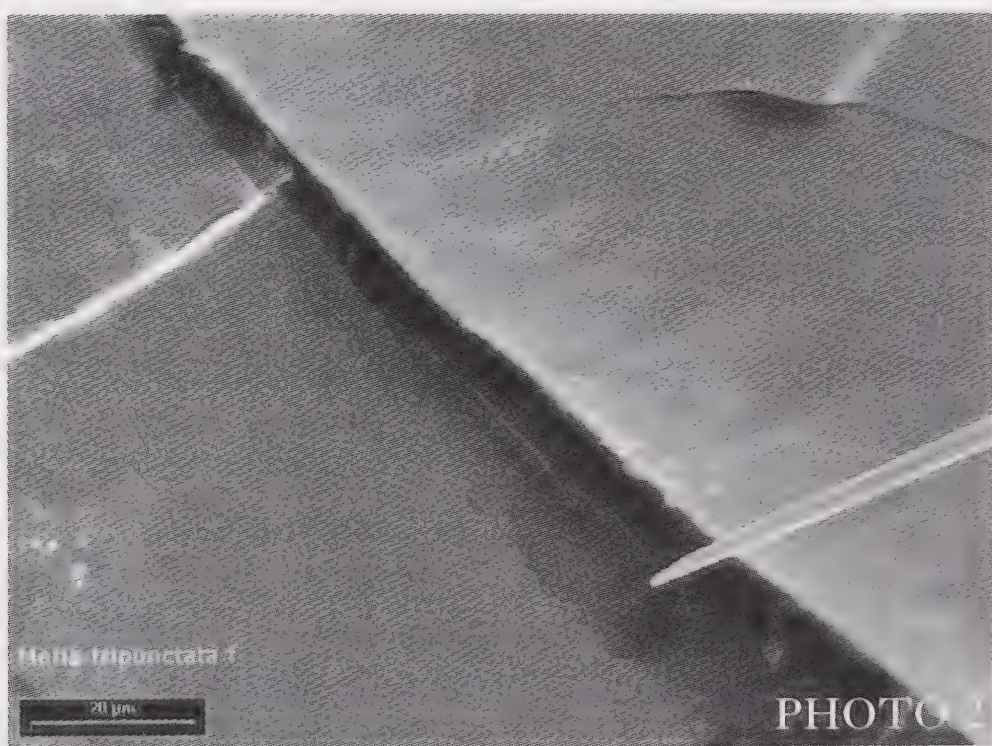
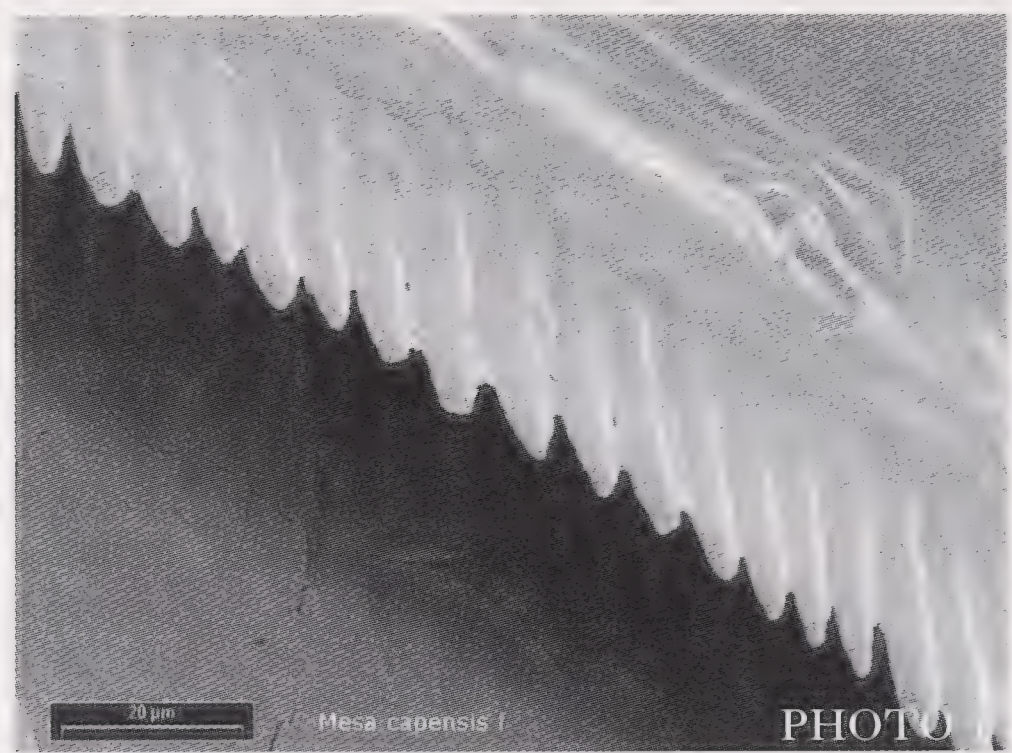


Photo 1 & 3 - *Mesa capensis* (Lepeletier, 1844) ♀: 1 = 4th tergal distal border ; 3 = labrum, sub frontal aspect.

Photo 2 - *Meria tripunctata* (Rossi, 1790) ♀: 4th tergal distal border.

poda Turner, 1908, *innotata* Turner, 1908, *angolensis* Berland, 1925), all of them with combed rear border of metameres in females and with males having much slender first metamere. About the distinction character given for the males, it shows gradual variations between the two extremities, *palestinella* and *donaldsoni* vs *picta* and *incisa* (which have the most elongated 1st metamere into the genus); the angle between declivity and dorsal disk seems a little hard to settle and unreliable character.

From all these considerations the aforesaid synonymies have originate; I feel we are dealing with an unique genus, *Mesa*, which appears the closest to the ancestor of the subfamily among the Old World genera. Its taxonomy is as so far uncertain about the actual number of species. At the present state of the art the following taxa can be recorded under the Saussure's taxon name, even if many synonymies have to be disengaged as well as other species have to be detected; (A) means Afrotropical, (O) Oriental and (P) Palaearctic area and the species are listed in chronological order of description:

Mesa haemorrhoidalis (Guérin, 1837) ♂ (A), *nodosa* (Guérin, 1837) ♂♀ (A), *dimidiata* (Guérin, 1837) ♂♀ (O), *abdominalis* (Guérin, 1838) ♀ (A), *capensis* (Lepéletier, 1845) ♀♂ (A), *petiolata* (Smith, 1855) ♂ (O), *fuscipennis* (Smith, 1855) ♀ (O), *capitata* (Smith, 1855) ♀♂ (A), *ruficeps* (Smith, 1855) ♀♂ (A), *mandibularis* (Smith, 1869) ♀♂ (O), *xanthocera* (Gerstaecker, 1870) ♀♂ (A), *torrida* (Smith, 1879) ♀ (A), *fedtschenkoi* (Saussure, 1880) ♀♂ (P), *picticollis* (Morawitz, 1890) ♀♂ (P), *dubia* (Morawitz, 1890) ♀♂ (P), *heterogamia* Saussure, 1892 ♀♂ (A), *hottentotta* Saussure, 1892 ♀ (A), *mandalensis* (Magretti, 1892) ♀♂ (O), *donaldsoni* (Fox, 1896) ♀ (A), *laeta* (Bingham, 1897) ♂ (O), *burmanica* (Bingham, 1897) ♂ (O), *claripennis* (Bingham, 1897) ♀ (O), *bengalensis* (Cameron, 1898) ♀ (O), *rothneyi* (Cameron, 1902) ♀ (O), *apimacula* (Cameron, 1902) ♀ (P), *carbonaria* (Cameron, 1905) ♂ (A), *reticulata* (Cameron, 1905) ♂ (A), *rufofemorata* (Cameron, 1905) ♂ (A), *incisa* (Cameron, 1905) ♂ (A), *adelogamia* (Turner, 1908) ♀♂ (A), *innotata* (Turner, 1908) ♀♂ (A), *erythropoda* (Turner, 1908) ♀ (A), *ustulata* (Turner, 1908) ♀ (O), *opacifrons* (Turner, 1908) ♀ (O), *extensa* (Turner, 1908) ♀ (A), *asmarensis* (Turner, 1909) ♂ (A), *nursei* (Turner, 1909) ♂ (O), *saussurei* (Turner, 1910) ♀ (A), *pyxidata* (Turner, 1910) ♀ (A), *spoliata* (Turner, 1912) ♀ (A), *apicipennis* (Turner, 1912) ♀ (A), *coeruleipennis* (Turner, 1913) ♀ (A), *nyanzae* (Turner, 1913) ♂ (A), *mutica* (Turner, 1917) ♂ (A), *diversicornis* (Turner, 1917) ♂

(A), *spinicollis* (Turner, 1917) ♂ (A), *angolensis* Berland, 1925 ♀♂ (A), *permutans* (Turner, 1935) ♀ (A), *herero* (Turner, 1935) ♀♂ (A), *molapo* Jacot-Guillarmod, 1947 ♀♂ (A), *seyrigi* Krombein, 1949 ♀♂ (A), *madecassa* Krombein, 1949 ♀♂ (A), *marovatana* Krombein, 1949 ♀♂ (A), *tandrone* Krombein, 1949 ♀♂ (A), *palestinella* Guiglia, 1963 ♀♂ (P), *persa* Gorbatovsky, 1981 ♂ (P), *attica* Gorbatovsky, 1981 ♂ (P), *viktorovi* Gorbatovsky, 1990 ♀ (O).

***Mesa haemorrhoidalis* (Guérin, 1837) n. comb.**

Myzine haemorrhoidalis Guérin, 1837: 576 [Holotype ♂, “Afrique Delalande (round label)/ *Myzine haemorrhoidalis* Guer. Mag.Zool. Cap (autographic)/ Museum Paris Afrique australe Delalande (green label)/ Type (red types)” MNHP !]

Elis (Mesa) fusiformis Turner, 1919: 44-45 [Holotype ♂, “Cape Colony Kraaifontein Lightfoot/ *Elis (Mesa) fusiformis* Turn. Type (autographic)/ Type (red label)/ *Methoca concinna* B ♂ - (new)/ SAM-HYM A003346” SAM !] **n. syn.**

Material.

- ♂: South Africa = “S. Africa, Cape Prov. Pakhuis Pass. Sept. 1961, S.A. Museum Exped./ South African Museum Cape Town” SAM (2).

Male: figs 2–3 (from holotype).

Besides the red colour of the apical metameres, this species is well featured among the other males of *Mesa* by the keel running along the apical half of the ventral inner border of hind femur; it appears to be a good reliable autapomorphy together with the strong longitudinal wrinkles of 7th tergum and the dorsal basal border of the lobes of the aedeagus without any teeth (in lateral aspect). It belongs to *Mesa* also because of the closed mandibular sockets, elongated distal maxillary palpomeres, prepectal sclerite fused to mesepisternum and genitalia, whereas the attribution in label to *Methoca* goes wrong.

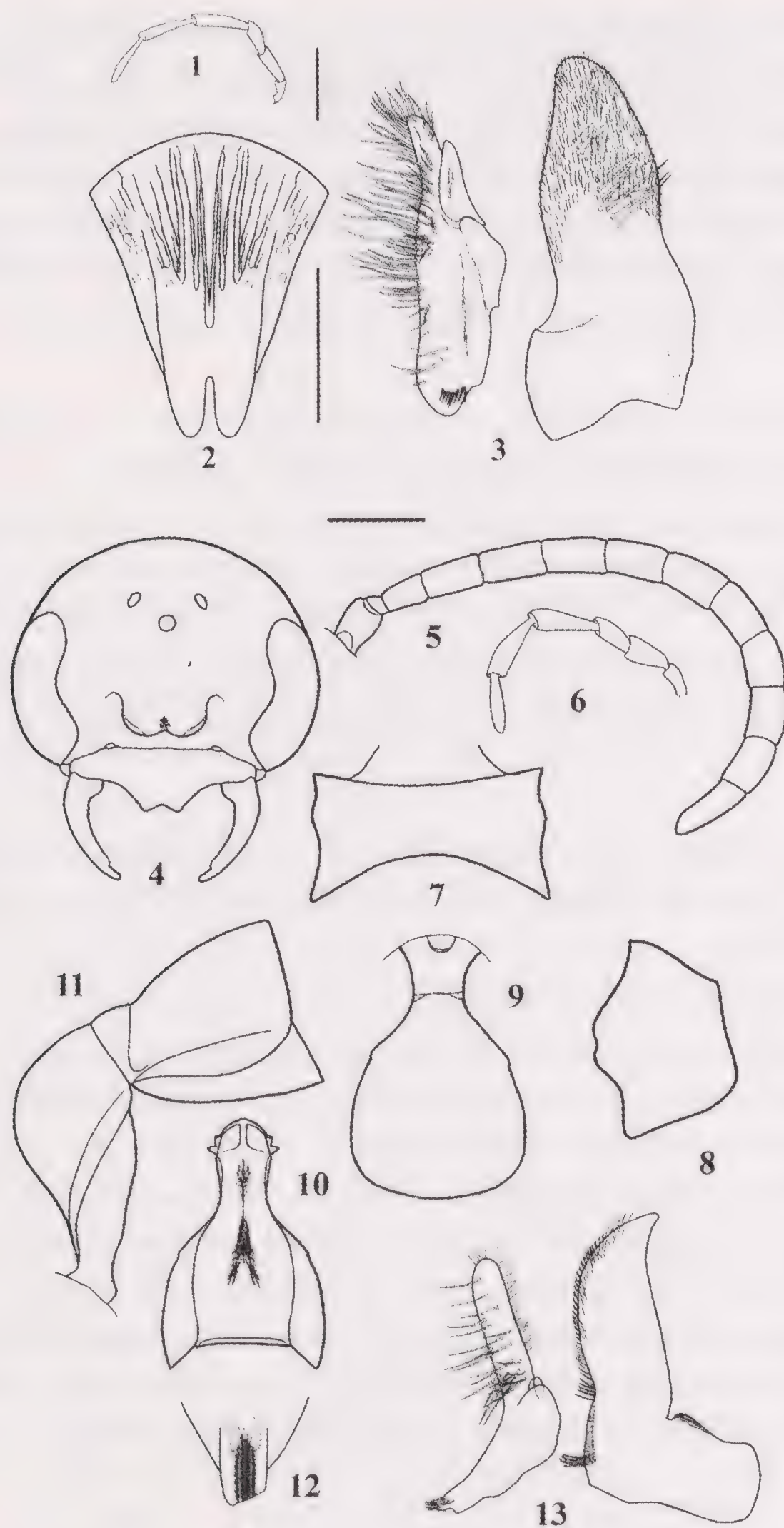
***Mesa donaldsoni* (Fox, 1896)**

Cosila donaldsoni Fox, 1896: 549 (Holotype ♀, Somaliland, ANSP ?)

Elis (Mesa) aliciae Turner, 1912: 704-705 (Holotype ♀, “Kenya Makindu”, BMNH!)

Elis (Mesa) donaldsoni: Turner (1913: 737)

Xylunka donaldsoni: Argaman (1994: 90)



Figs. 1-13: Fig. 1 = *Mesa heterogamia* ♂: MP. Figs. 2-3 = *Mesa haemorrhoidalis* ♂ (Holotype). 2: 7th tergum; 3: volsella and paramere. Figs. 4-13 = *Mesa donaldsoni* ♂. 4: head, frontal aspect; 5: antenna, from above; 6: MP; 7: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 8: pronotum, lateral aspect; 9: 1st tergum, dorsal aspect; 10: 1st metamere, lateral aspect; 11: 1st & 2nd metameres, lateral aspect; 12: 7th tergum (epipygium), dorsal aspect; 13: volsella and paramere. Figs. 4-5, 7-11: scale bar: 1 mm; figs. 1-3, 6, 13: scale bar: 0.5 mm

Material.

- ♀: Tanzania = “Tanganyika Shinyanga *Makumbo* 12.4.1958 197 I.A.D. Robertson/ Pres. By Com Ins: Fnt, B.M. 1963-4/ *Elis (Mesa) aliciae* Turner G.E.J. Nixon det.1962/” BMNH (1).
- ♂: Somaliland = “(Somalia -Sar Uanle / Programma litorale 1 Trans *A* trapp. data 3.XI.71 ore 18 Zona 3 Direz *T*” MZUF (1).

Turner (1913) is the authority for the synonymy between *Cosila donaldsoni* and *Elis (Mesa) aliciae*. The present attribution of this specimen to *donaldsoni* is proposed without any certain proof and only inferred by the same provenance areas, the stout body size and coarse sculpture of head and mesosoma.

Male: figs. 4 - 13.

Measurements. Body length: 17 mm. Forewing length: 11.5 mm.

Black, pitch brown and creamy white. Pitch brown: flagellum and legs. Creamy white: two very small lateral spots on the 1st tergum and 3rd, 4th sterna; very narrow, with irregular foreprofile, apical stripes on 2nd to 5th terga.

Fore wing brown shaded from the apical portions of the BC, SBC and AC up to its end; hind wing shaded only on its apical end.

Head and mesosoma strongly and densely pitted; the pits on the metasoma are less deep and dense. Dense white hair on the clypeus and frontal areas of the head, less dense on the remainder of the body, where the underlying tegument is well detectable.

***Mesa palestinella* Guiglia, 1963**

Mesa palestinella Guiglia, 1963: 242-243 (Holotype ♂, Israel, TAU)

Taywola palestinella: Argaman (1994: 91)

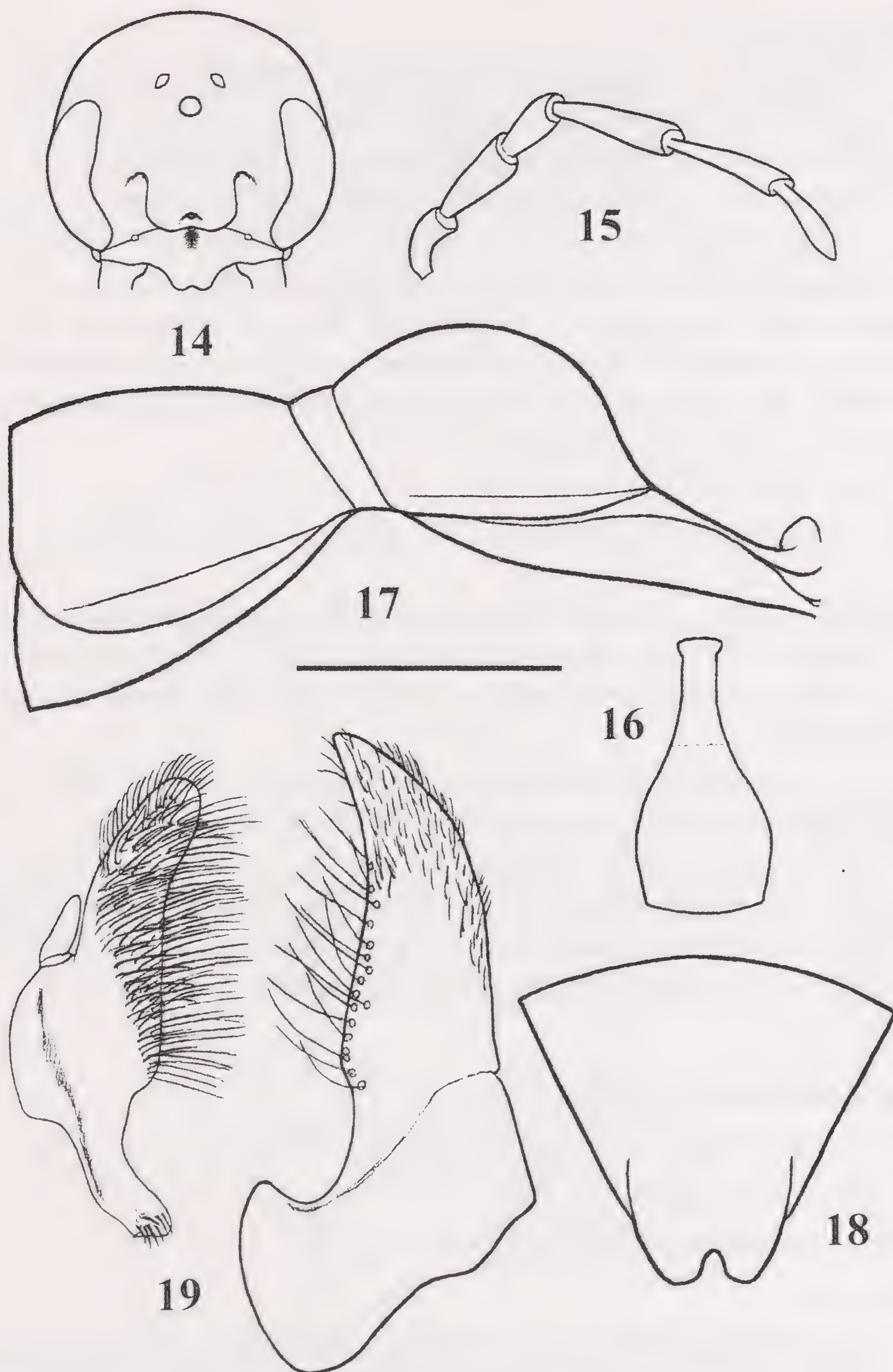
Taywola palestinella: Argaman (1996: 245-250)

Material.

- ♂: Israel=Paratype “*Jerusalem* Palestine 381940 Bytinski-Salz/ *Paratypus* (red)/ *Mesa palestinella* det. Dott. D.Guiglia” MSNG (1).

Greece = “Grecia : Rhodos. Paradissi beach on *Foeniculum vulgare* 4.VIII.1990 Boni Bartalucci leg.” MZUF (1).

Male: figs. 14 – 18 (from paratype, but fig.17 drawn from the Rhodian specimen).



Figs. 14-19: = *Mesa palestinella* ♂ (Paratype). 14: head, frontal aspect; 15: MP; 16: 1st tergum, dorsal aspect; 17: 1st and 2nd metameres, lateral aspect; 18: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 19: volsella and paramere. Figs. 14,16: scale bar: 2 mm; fig. 17: scale bar: 1 mm; figs. 15,18,19: scale bar: 0.5 mm

The male from Rhodos shows a little different clypeal border, two lateral white spots along the foreborder of the pronotal disk, white apical narrow stripes on the 2nd to 5th terga and apical lateral spots on 2nd to 4th sterna. Nevertheless it has the same genitalia, the same conformation of head, pronotum, propodeum and 1st metamere. Unfortunately the paratypus of *palestinella* lacks the last metamere, probably lost during a previous failed attempt to extract genitalia, hidden in the metasomal cavity.

***Mesa attica* Gorbatovsky, 1981**

Mesa attica Gorbatovsky, 1981: 387-388 (Holotype ♂, Attika, ZMUM)

Material.

- ♀: Greece = "Hellas, Peloponisos, 5 km S. Monemvasia, 12.VIII.1983, Georg Christensen leg." UZM (1); "Hellas, Peloponisos, 5 km S. Monemvasia, 26-31.VIII.1983, Zool. Mus. Copenh. Exped." UZM *(1).
- ♂: Greece = "Graecia, 1896, Steind. Don." MHNW (1); "Hellas, Peloponisos, 5 Km S. Monemvasia, 25.VII.1983, Georg Christensen leg." UZM (1); "same label, 31.VII.1983" UZM (1); "same label, 15.VIII.1983" UZM (1); "Hellas, Peloponisos, 5 km S. Monemvasia 26-31.VIII.1983, Zool. Mus. Copenh. Exped." UZM* (1); "Hellas, Peloponisos, Monemvasia 11.IX.1984, Georg Christensen leg." UZM (1); "Hellas, Lakonia, 5 km S. Monemvasia 4.IX.1985, Georg Christensen leg." UZM (2).

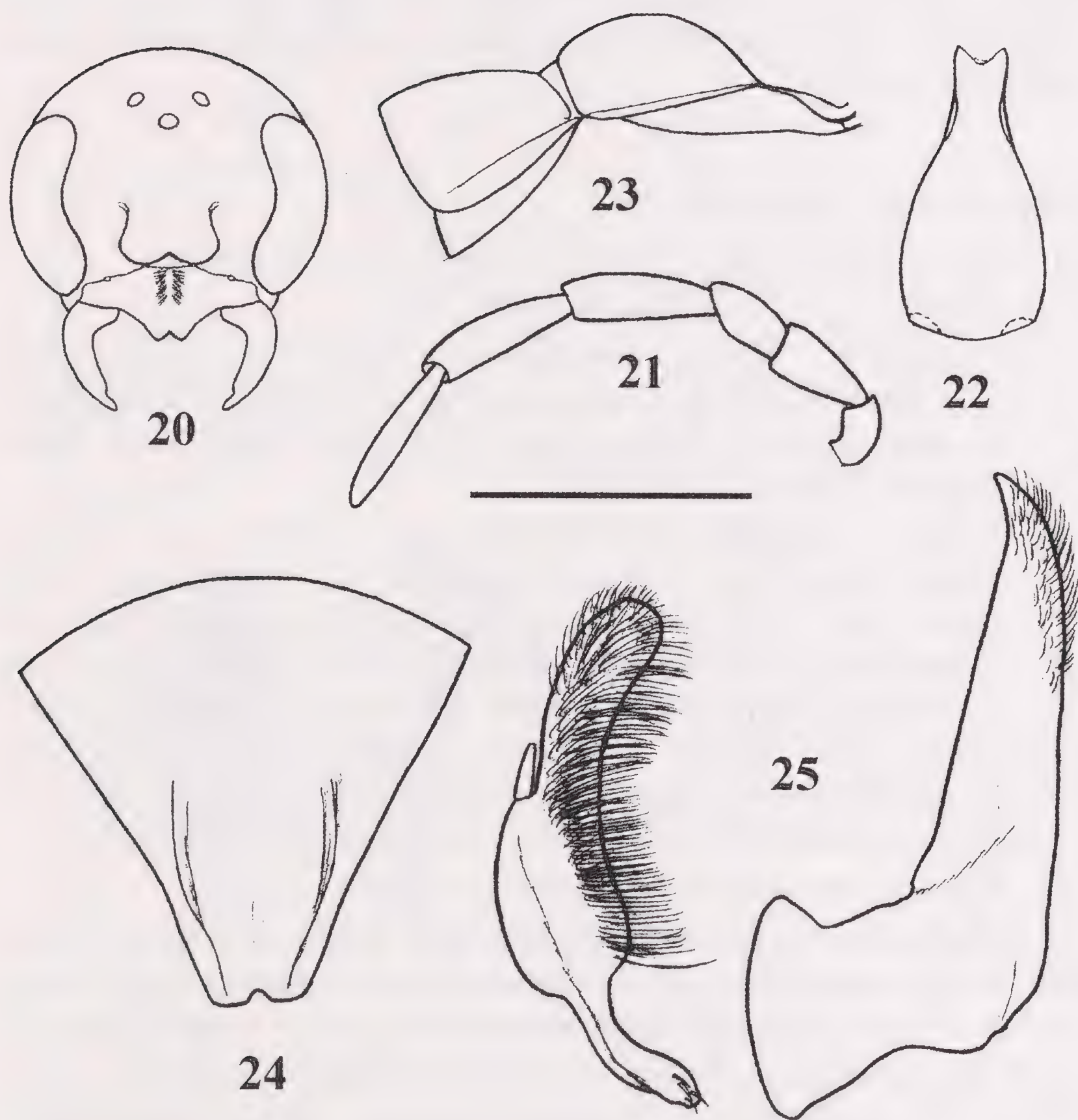
(Figures drawn from the stared specimens)

Female, described here for the first time: in habitus it appears very like *Tiphia femorata* from which is promptly distinguished by the presence of the SAL; figs. 20 - 22. Measurements: body length = mm 12.

Body pitch black, brown and bright ferruginous. Brown: mandibles, clypeus, antennae, forelegs, metasoma. Bright ferruginous: median and hindlegs, mesosternal lobes and metasternum, some shadows on sterna.

Head almost without pits: very scattered on the frons, vertex and upper genae, a bit denser on the lower genae and on the middle of the clypeal disk.

Pronotum with strong, regularly distanced pits (their distance at least twice their diameter). Scutum and scutellum almost without



Figs. 20-25: = *Mesa attica* ♂. 20: head, frontal aspect; 21: MP; 22: 1st tergum, dorsal aspect; 23: 1st and 2nd metameres, lateral aspect; 24: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 25: volsella and paramere. Figs. 20,22,23: scale bar: 2 mm; figs. 21,24,25: scale bar: 0.5 mm

pits. Propodeal disk strongly pitted, wrinkled sideways; median sulcus heavily impressed up to the declining area, delimited by quite prominent keels.

Metameres with pits as distanced as in the pronotum in their basal half; denser and smaller on the apical areas; weak pits on the basal 2/3 of the 6th tergum (epipygium); the remainder apical surface with dense but very minute sculpture.

Male: figs. 23 - 28.

Mesa picta n. sp.

Holotype ♀: Senegal = "Senegal, Nioro du Ryi, IX.1985, malaise trap" BMNH.

Paratypes ♀♀: Senegal = "Seneg" MSNG (1); Angola = "Angola" BMNH (1); ♂♂: Senegal = "Senegal, Nyoro du Ryi, IX.1985, malaise trap" BMNH (2).

Female: figs. 29 – 32 (from holotype). Measurements: body length = mm 8.

Body black, light brown and creamy white.

Creamy white: clypeal disk, base of mandibles, dorsal and ventral longitudinal spots on the scape, SAL, collar and most of the pronotal disk, tegulae, scutum and postscutellum, mesosternal lobes and ventral (visible) apex of metasternum, forelegs, coxae, median tibiae and femura, sideways widened bands on 1st to 4th terga, medially widened band on 5th tergum, apical bands on 1st to 5th sterna.

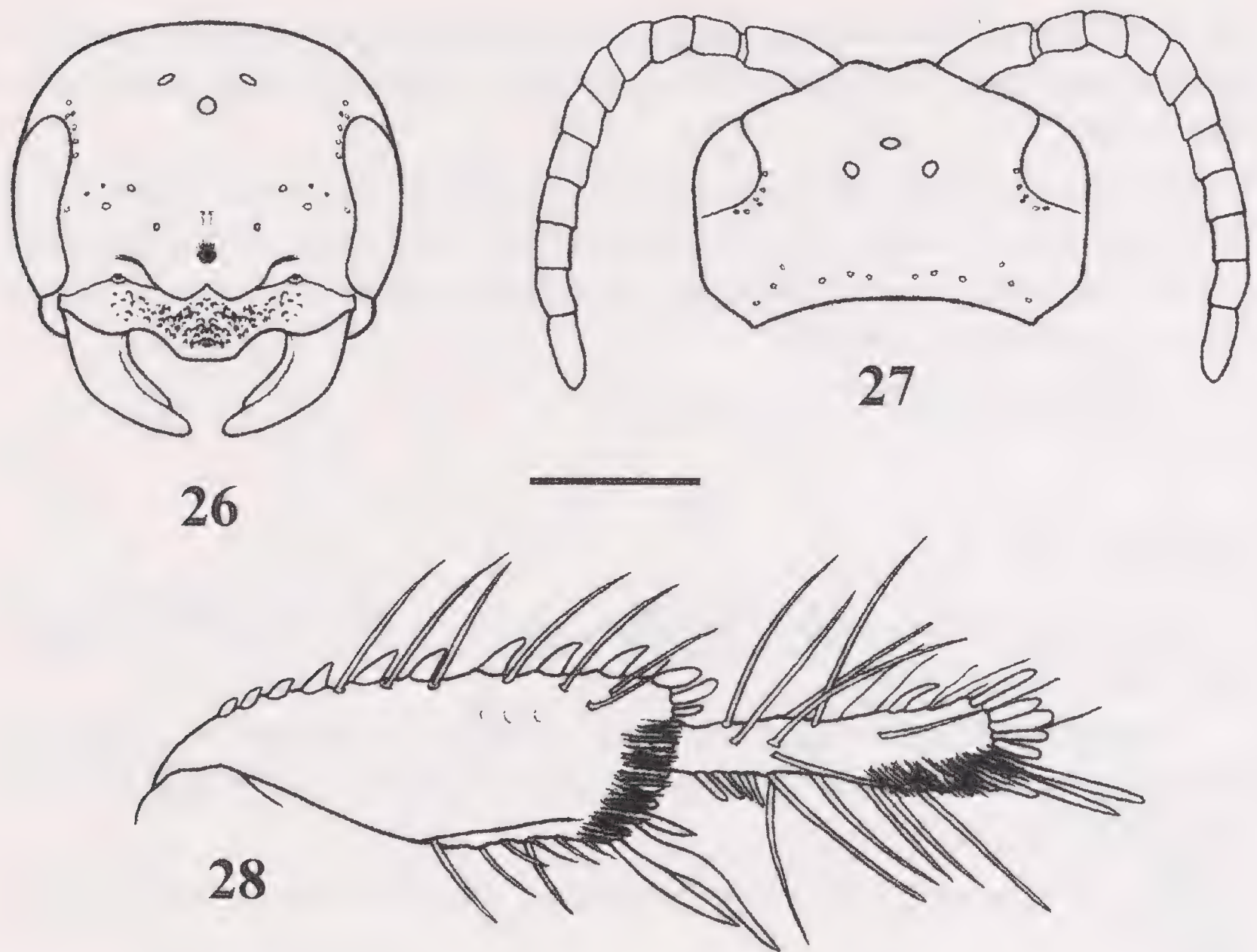
Light brown: apex of mandibles, flagellum, the remainder of scape, legs and the apical metamere.

All the body with regularly spaced pits, denser on the propodeum, more scattered on the metasoma. Metapleurae weakly and lateral propodeal areas strongly wrinkled; median furrow on the propodeal disk faintly impressed.

Male: figs. 33 – 39. Measurements: body length = mm 9 ; fore wing length = mm 5.5.

Body black, brown and creamy white.

Creamy white: clypeal disk, base of mandibles, ventral scape, apex of the SAL, lateral spot and apical border on the pronotal disk, postscutellum, thin apical bands on 1st to 6th terga and 2nd to 6th sterna, all



Figs. 26-28: = *Mesa attica* ♀. 26: head in frontal aspect; 27: head, dorsal aspect; 28: hind tibia and basal hind tarsomere, posterior (inner) aspect. Figs. 26,27: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 28: scale bar: 0.5 mm

the legs but hind trochanters and the back surface of hind femurs and hind tibiae.

Light brown: underside of the flagellum.

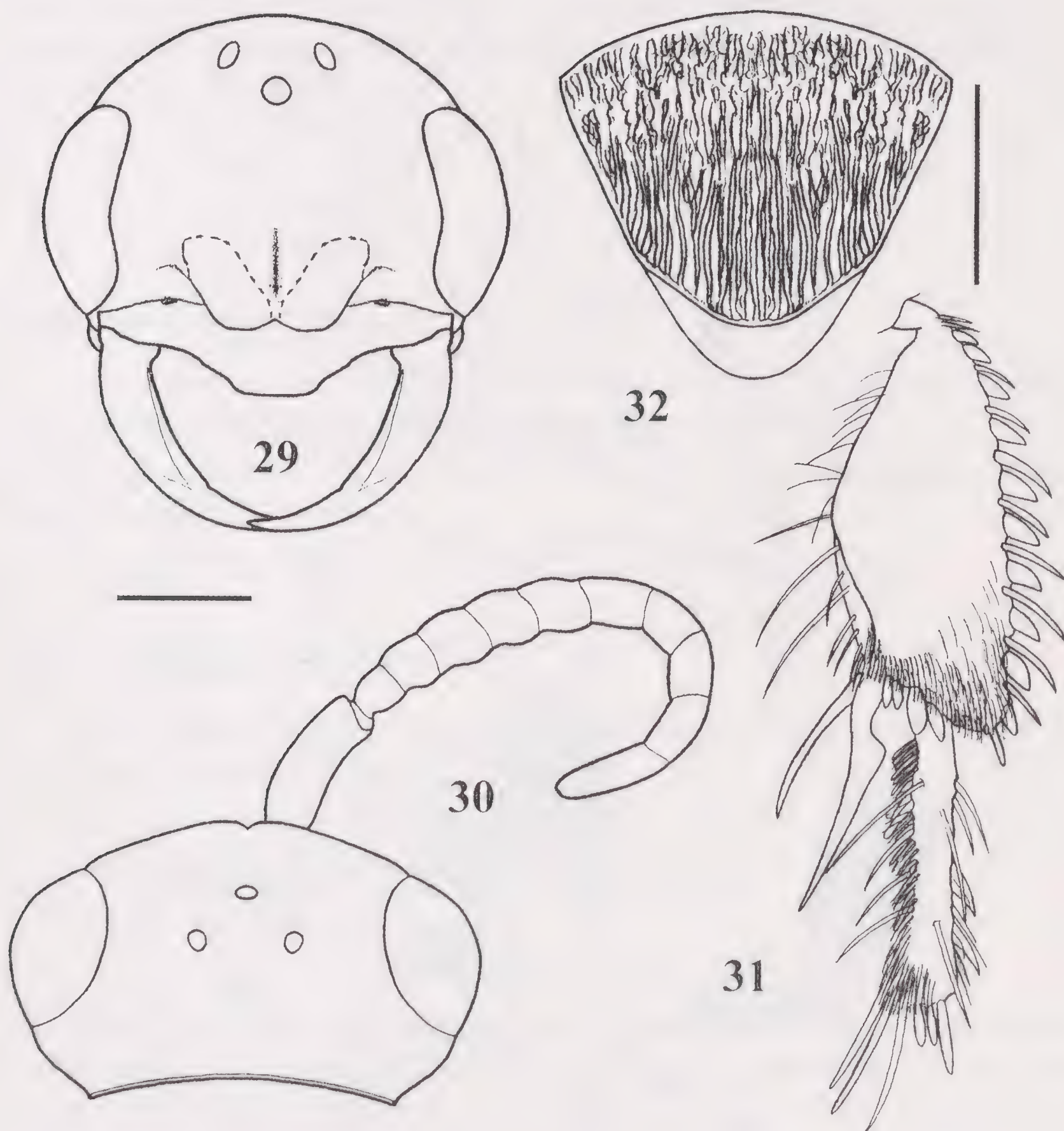
Body with regularly spaced pits, denser and stronger on the propodeum, much smaller on the metasoma. White short hair everywhere.

Variability: the ♀ from Angola is bigger, up to 11 mm.

Distribution: from the data we could presume a large distribution area all over western tropical Africa.

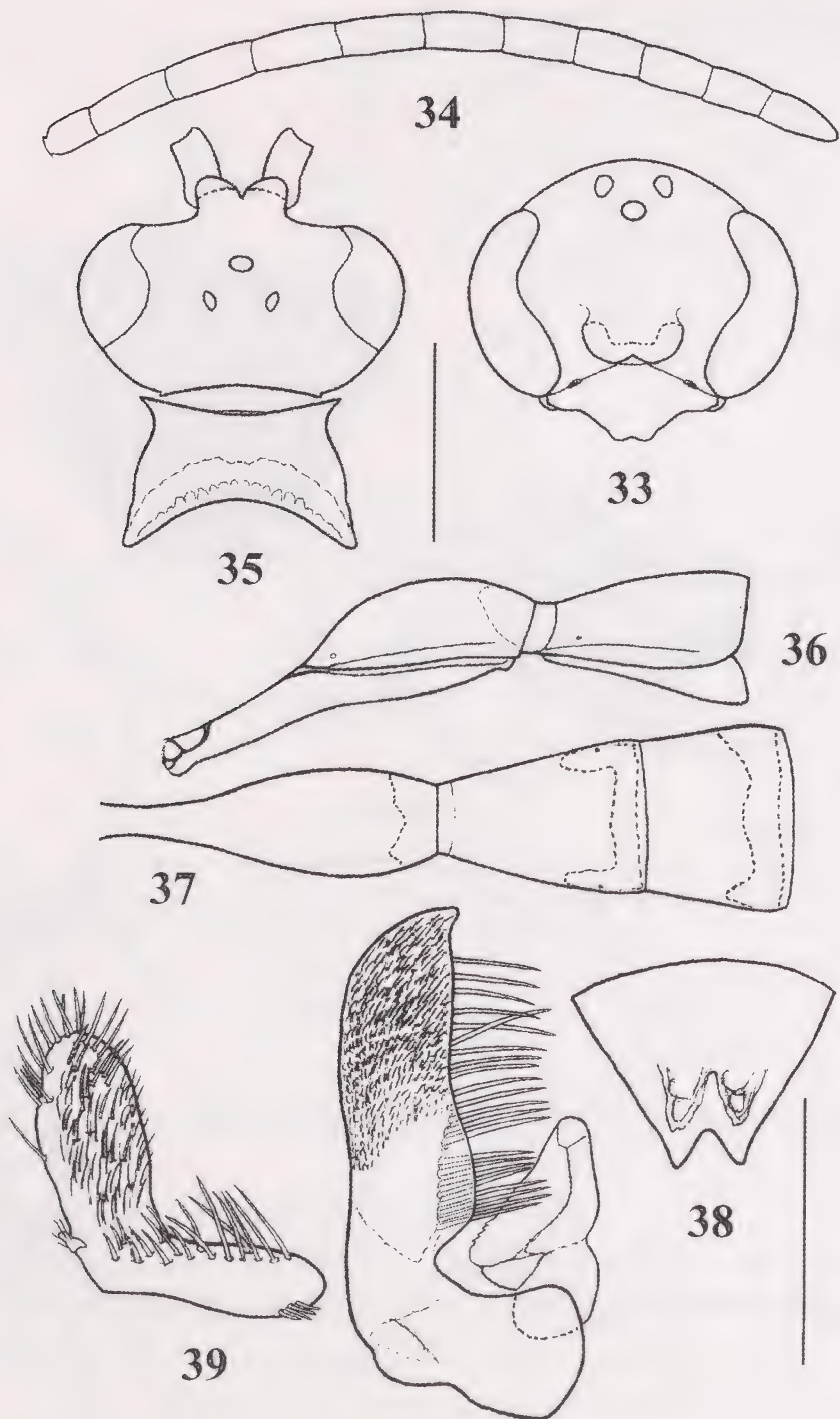
Derivatio nominis: from the light coloured patterns of the body.

Note. The female of the new species shares the light spots all over the body like in *picticollis* Morawitz, 1890, the type of which has so far



Figs. 29-32: = *Mesa picta* n. sp. ♀ (Holotype). 29: head, frontal aspect; 30: head, dorsal aspect; 31: hind tibia and basal hind tarsomere, posterior (inner) aspect; 32: 6th tergum (epipygium).

Figs. 29, 30: scale bar: 1 mm; figs. 31, 32: scale bar: 0.5 mm



Figs. 33-39: = *Mesa picta* n. sp. ♂ (Paratype). 33: head, frontal aspect; 34: antenna, from above; 35: head and pronotum, dorsal aspect; 36: 1st and 2nd metameres, lateral aspect; 37: 1st, 2nd and 3rd metameres, dorsal aspect; 38: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 39: volsella and paramere.
Figs. 33-37: scale bar: 1 mm; figs. 38, 39: scale bar: 0.5 mm

been inaccessible, getting hard to split them. Nevertheless the relative males are very different in the shape of the head, pronotal disk (*picticollis* has neither keel nor anteroventral teeth), 1st metamere, last tergum and genitalia (Figs 40 – 43 drawn from a specimen labelled “Transcasp Bala-Tschem”, NHMW). The male resembles *Mesa incisa* Cameron, 1905 (= *longiventris* Turner, 1912) in size and slender basal metameres, but has strongly different shape of the head, pronotum, 7th tergum and genitalia.

DESIGNATION OF LECTOTYPES

Mesa peringueyi Saussure, 1892: 245.

Lectotype ♀, South Africa: “*Calvinia*/ CAP / 41 / *Cosila peringueyi* n.sp. Sss. (blue)/ Type (red)/ C.ne Saussure /” MHNG !

Paralectotype ♀: “/ *O’okiep* 8.11.85 / Transvaal Peringuey / Type (red)/” MHNG!

Actually = synonym of *Mesa capensis* (Lepeletier, 1845)

Mesa hottentotta Saussure, 1892: 245.

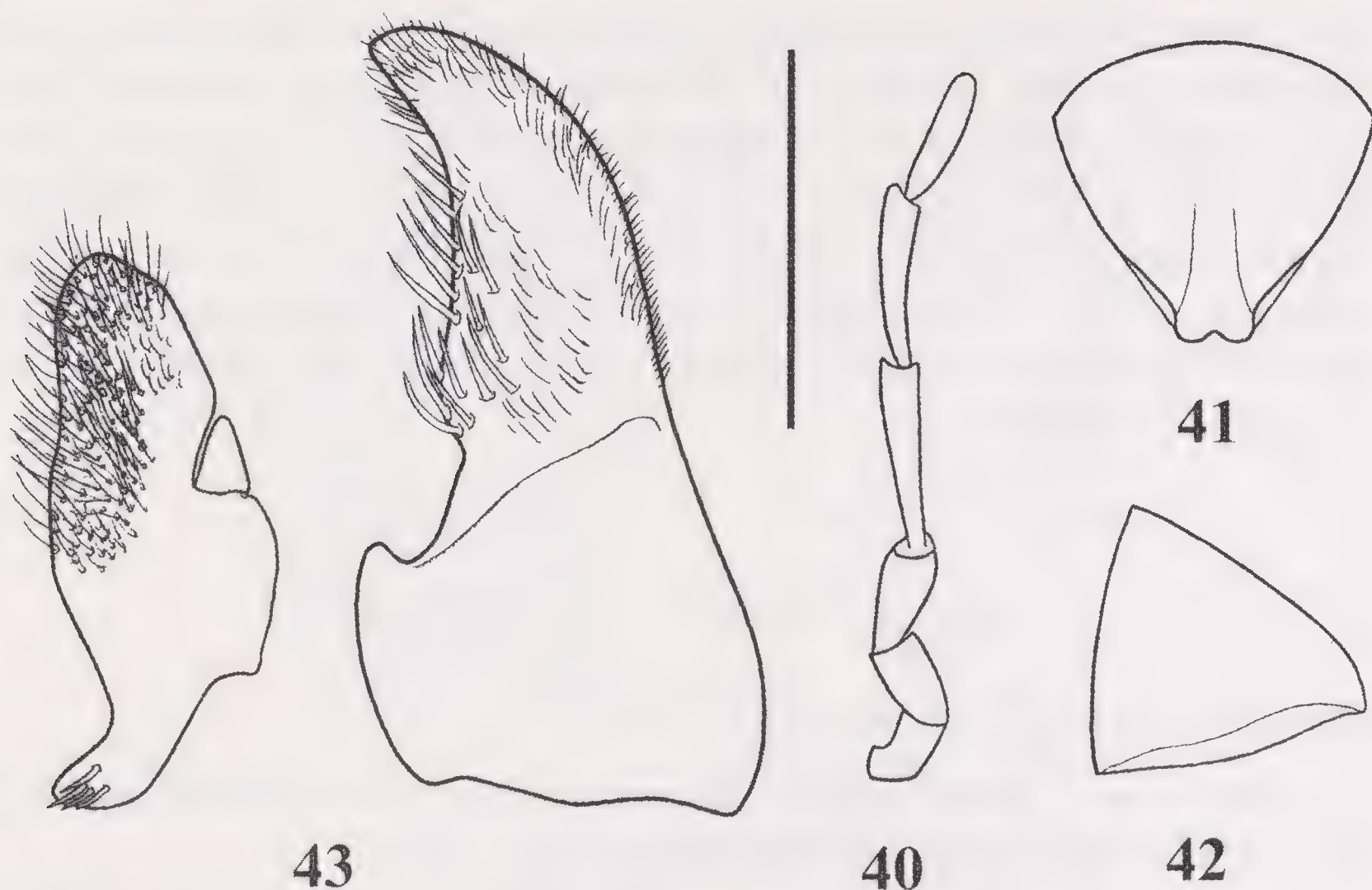
Lectotype ♀: “/ CAP / 43 / *Pseudoplesia hottentotta* Sss. Cap ♀ (blue, autographic)/ Type /

C.ne Saussure /”; MHNG !

Paralectotype ♀: same labels, lacking only “43” MHNG!

Meria Illiger, 1807

Many troubles and doubts are still persisting about this genus. Many single or small groups of specimens very difficult to place exist in the collections. The group of Asiatic females with red metasoma is particularly intriguing; a well settled taxonomic order of the taxa would often need the knowledge of both of the sexes, as from case to case either the females or males alone can be hardly recognized; since in many cases the coupling between sexes is either absolutely lacking or purely deductive we can easily realize the actual waving situation. The Afrotropical fauna is also still poorly studied. Here some conclusions derived from the examination of a lot of material are offered.



Figs. 40-43: = *Mesa picticollis* ♂. 40: MP; 41= 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 42: 7th tergum, lateral aspect; 43: volsella and paramere. Figs. 41,42: scale bar: 1 mm; figs. 40,43: scale bar: 0.5 mm

***Meria fusiformis* (De Geer, 1778) n. comb.**

Apis fusiformis De Geer, 1778: 608. Holotype ♂, South Africa: “/ 20.76 B / ♂ / 321 75 (red)/*Meria fusiformis* Geer Holotype, M.C. Day” SMNH !

Meria rufiventris Klug, 1810: 200-201. Holotype ♀, South Africa: “Capland Krebs (blue)/ 6245 / Type (red) / *M. rufiventris* Klug* (probably not original)/” MNHU! **n. syn.**

Meria abdominalis Guérin, 1839: 365. Holotypus ♀, South Africa: “*Afrique Delalande* (round label)/ *Meria abdominalis* Guérin Mag. Zool. (autographic)/ Type (red types)/ Museum Paris Afrique australe Delalande” MHNP ! **n. syn.**

Meria hottentotta Saussure, 1892: 249. Designation of Lectotype ♀, South Africa: “*Hex River Dec 84 / Cap / M. hottentotta* Sss ♀ *Peringuey* (blue)/ Type (red)/ C.ne De Saussure” MHNG ! - Paralectotype ♀, South Africa: “Cap / Type / C.ne de Saussure” MHNG ! **n. syn.**

Material.

- ♀: South Africa = “*Dunbrody 24/3/07/80 /P.Cameron coll. 1914.110/ near limata*” BMNH (1); “*Willowmore Capland. Dr.Brauns/ Brauns coll. 1912-44 / Myzine 24 in copula/ Myzine abdomi-*

nalis Guer." BMNH (1)*; "Capland Willowmore 1.IV.1912 Dr Brauns/ *Meria abdominalis* Guer. ♀ / *Meria abdominalis* Guérin ♀ det 1950 - C J-Guillarmod/ South African Museum ex National Museum Bulawayo 1981/ SAM-HYM- AO03111" SAM (1); "Capland Willowmore 1.12.1912 Dr. Brauns/ *Meria abdominalis* Guérin ♀ det 1950 - C J-Guillarmod / South African Museum ex National Museum Bulawayo / SAM-HYM- A003111/" SAM (1); "Ceres, Cape Province. 1,500 ft. Dec.1920/ S.Africa R.E.Turner. Brit. Mus. 1921-38/ *Myzine abdominalis* ♀ / *Myzine abdominalis* Guer." BMNH (1); "*Aventuur Union dale* XII.1922 Dr. Brauns/ *Myzine abdominalis* Guer. ♀" MHNP (1); "Mossel Bay, C.P. (leg R.E.Turner) IX-X, 1933- Rhodesian Museum / *Meria abdominalis* Guérin ♀ det. 1950 - C J-Guillarmod/ South African Museum ex National Museum Bulawayo/ SAM-HYM- AO03109" SAM (1); "Pretoria 10-1-1950/ Collection S.African Transvaal Museum Pretoria" TM (1); "*Caffraria* / *Myzine abdominalis* Guer. /" BMNH (1).

- ♂: Botswana = "Botswana (84), Ghanzi, 13-14.IV.1972/ Southern African Exp. B.M. 1972-1" BMNH (1)

- South Africa = "Willowmore Capland. Dr. Brauns/ Brauns Coll. 1912-44/ *Myzine* 24 in copula/ *Myzine abdominalis* Guer./ *Meria fusiformis* Geer ♂ det. M.C. Day, 1975" BMNH (1)*; "Capland Willowmore Nov. 1912 Dr. Brauns/ *Myzine abdominalis* ♂ Guér./ *Meria abdominalis* Guérin ♂ det. C .J-Guillarmod/ South African Museum ex National Museum Bulawayo 1981/ SAM-HYM- A003110" SAM (1); "/ Ceres, Cape Province. 1,500 ft. Dec. 1920/ S.Africa. R.E.Turner Brit. Mus. 1921-38 *Myzine abdominalis* Guer. *Meria abdominalis* Guérin ♂ det.1950 - C J-Guillarmod " BMNH (1); "/ Mossel Bay C.P. (leg. R.E.Turner) IX-X, 1933 - Rhodesian Museum/ *Meria abdominalis* Guérin ♂ det. - J C-Guillarmod South African Museum ex National Museum Bulawayo / SAM-HYM- A003109" SAM (1).

* = taken in copula

Here the original diagnosis by De Geer follows (the relative figure is not very useful):

- 6 ABEILLE "*Apis fusiformis*, nigra, abdomine conico acutissimo; segmentorum marginibus flavescentibus, alis brevioribus, antennis longis subulatis". Cette abeille a le corp conique, très allongé

et peu large, long de sept lignes et demie sur une et demie de large; elle ressemble beaucoup a celle que se trouve en Europe et qui a été nommé par M. de Linné *Apis (conica) fusca*: abdomine conico acutissimo, segmentorum marginibus albis. Faun. Suec. Ed. 2 n° 1705; peut être aussi qu'elle est de la même espèce. Celle, qui a été trouvée au Cap de Bonne Esperance, est noire avec des poils gris, mais qui ne cachent point la peau; sur le devant de corselet il y a une raye transversale jaune, et les six premiers anneaux du ventre sont marqués a leur bord posterieur d'une raye transverse d'un blanc jaunatre, un peu inégale et qui vers les côtés s'elargit en tache, où l'on voit un point brun qui est un stigmat; le ventre a donc six de ces rayes transversales et le septième anneau, qui termine le corp en pointe, est marqué de chaque côté d'une tache de la même couleur. Les antennes, qui sont longues, ou d'etendue egale a la tête et le corselet, sont noires et en forme de massue, ou augmentant un peu en grosseur vers l'extremité. Les aîles, qui sont transparentes et vitrées à nervures brunes et une petite tache rousse au bord exterior des supérieures, sont beaucoup plus courtes que le corp. Enfin les pattes, qui sont assez longues, sont jaunes, mais les deux cuisses posterieures sont noires".

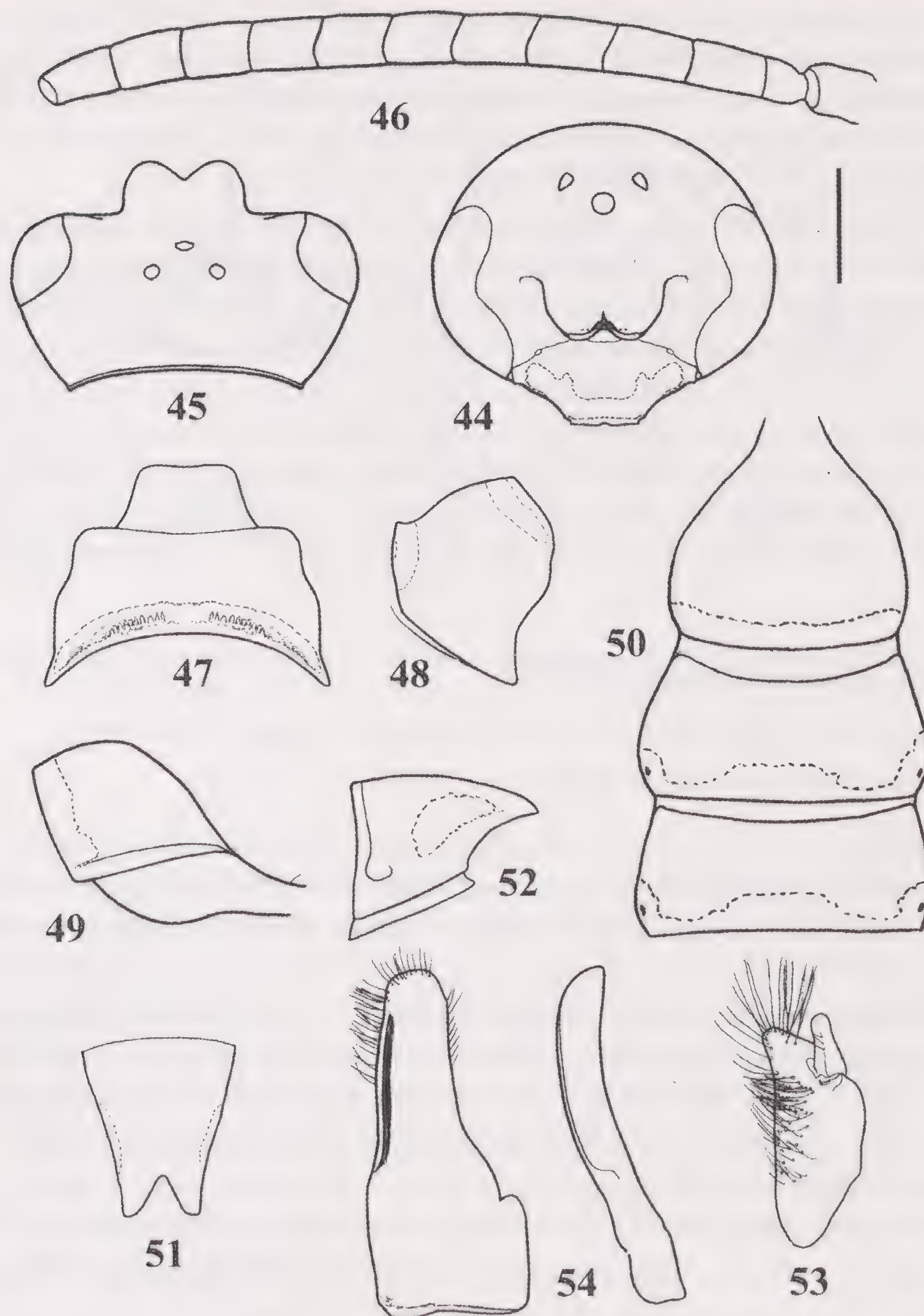
TULLGREN (1904) first discovered that among the De Geer's types at Stockholm Museum *Apis fusiformis* was "a Male belonging to the genus *Myzine*". After long time M.C. Day (1975) examined its holotype establishing in labels the new combination *Meria fusiformis* (De Geer, 1778); he consequently determined other male specimens from western South Africa at BMNH; one of these was collected in copula with a female identical to the holotypes of *Meria rufiventris* Klug, 1810, *Meria abdominalis* Guérin, 1839 and lectotype of *Meria hottentotta* Saussure, 1892; this couple was determined *Meria abdominalis* Guér. by R.E. Turner. Because of that it springs out the proposed aforesaid synonymies, confirmed by the strictly overlapping distribution areas.

Male: figs 44 – 54 (from holotype).

The strong additional keel along the postero (inner) ventral border of the hind coxa, the hairy fore surface of the median femurs and the weakly wrinkled upper metapleurae have to be added to the original description; in contrast with it, a dense long silver hair on the most of the head, pronotum and propodeum cover the underlying tegument.

Female: figs. 55 – 56 (specimen from Willowmore taken in copula).

To the characters of the original description the shape of the head, clypeus and mandibles have to be added.



Figs. 44-54: = *Meria fusiformis* ♂ (Holotype). 44: head, frontal aspect; 45: head, dorsal aspect; 46: antenna, from above; 47: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 48: pronotum, lateral aspect; 49: 1st metamere, lateral aspect; 50: 1st, 2nd and 3rd terga, dorsal aspect; 51: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 52: 7th metamere, lateral aspect; 53: volsella; 54: paramere, outer and ventral aspect. Figs. 44-52: scale bar: 1 mm; figs. 53,54: scale bar: 0.5 mm

Variability: very few fluctuations in the males about their main characters are detectable; in females the main variation is about the coloration of the metasoma, which is completely ferruginous red in the specimen taken in copula and in that one from Dunbrody, with darker basal two metameres in the other specimens.

Note. The female is well featured by the shape of mandibles and head; the males by the genitalia; they are greatly similar [also in having the additional keel on the postero (inner) ventral border of the hind coxa] to the males of *Meria rufifrons* (Fabricius, 1793), the latters having bright lemon yellow markings, a different shape of the head and 7th tergum (epipygium) and weakly different genitalia. From the records of the examined specimens (but the female specimen from Pretoria at TM) *fusiformis* seems to lodge only on the western part, while *Meria rufifrons* (Fabricius, 1793) on the eastern areas of Southern Africa.

Meria arabica (Guérin, 1837)

Myzine arabica Guérin, 1837: 577, n.10 (Lectotype ♂, “Arabie”; MHNP!)

Meria arabica: Boni Bartalucci (1999: 10,12; figs 35-44)

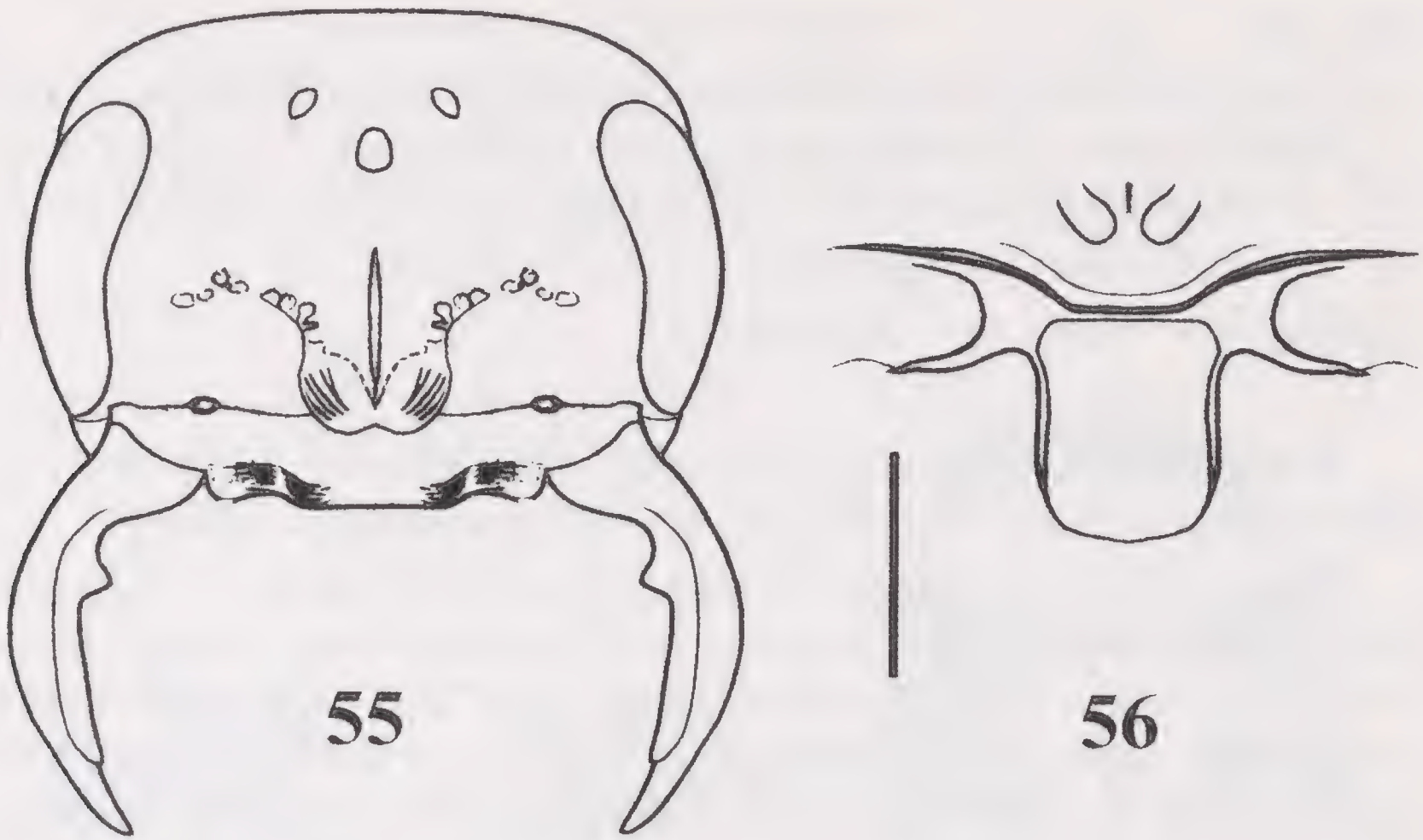
Material.

- ♀: Iran = “SW Persia, Escalera, 1900–61”, BMNH (4 ; one specimen bears the label “*Meria caspica* Rad. Gorbatovsky det. 1978”)
- ♂: Iran = “SW Persia, Escalera, 1900-61 ”, BMNH (4; one specimen bears the label “*Meria caspica* Rad. Gorbatovsky det. 1987”); “Iran, Khuzestan haft tapeh, 300 Km N di Abadan, Rive fiume Dez 29-VI – 1-VII-1965 Giordani Soika – Mavromoustakis“, CB (2).

Female: figs. 57 – 62 (from the specimen labelled *caspica*).

Body dark ferruginous. Tarsi and metasoma are bright ferruginous. Two lateral whitish spots on 2nd and 3rd terga.

Hair, spines and calcaria yellowish translucent. Fore wing pale yellow, hind wing colourless. The base of the hypostoma well reaches the occipital carina, so no genal bridge is expressed. Propodeal disk mostly corrugated with a median deep furrow which runs up near to the propodeal foramen. Lateral propodeal area smooth and shining, wrinkled only in their upper third.



Figs. 55-56: = *Meria fusiformis* ♀. 55: head, frontal aspect; 56: hypostomal area, ventral aspect. Scale bar: 1 mm

Note. All the female specimens share the same characters and have been compared to the lectotype of *Meria caspica*, from which they differ in having different shape of the head in frontal aspect, pronotum and propodeal disk in dorsal aspect, first two metameres in dorsal aspect and the ferruginous colour of head and mesosoma (black in *caspica*).

Male: fig. 63 has been drawn from the specimen labelled *caspica*, as the genitalia are lacking in the lectotype at MHNP.

These specimens well correspond to the lectotype of *arabica* in the shape of head, pronotal disk, propodeum, metameres, more or less reddish brown colour and the punctuation of the body. Their conspecificity is just proposed, even if highly probable.

***Meria cingulata* (Gerstaecker, 1857) n. comb.**

Myzine cingulata Gerstaecker, 1857: 512 [Holotype ♂, Mozambique (?) = "6213 / *cingulata* Gerst.* (green label) / Type (red label) / Zool Mus. Berlin" MNHU!]

Meria politissima Turner, 1911b: 615 [Holotype ♂, Zimbabwe = "type (circular, red bordered label) / N.E. Rhodesia. Upper Luangwa R. 27 July 13 Aug. 1910. S.A. Neave./ 1911-177" BMNH!] **n. syn.**

Material.

- ♂: Zimbabwe = *Meria politissima* "Paratype (circular, yellow bordered label)/ N.E. Rhodesia. Upper Luangwa R. 27 July 13 Aug. 1910. S.A. Neave/ 1911-177" BMNH (1); "*Caia Zambesi* 17-1-11 H. Swale/ 3/ Swale Coll. 1919-120" BMNH (1)
- Erythrea = "Africa or.", MSNG (1)

Male: lectotype (flagella lacking the last element). Figs. 64 - 73. Measurements: body length = mm 16; fore wing length = mm 11.

Black, yellow and brown. Yellow: clypeal disk, most of the mandibles, two transversal spots along the foreborder and a band along the apical border of the pronotal disk, tarsi, fore surface of tibiae and femurs, apical transversal belts along the apical borders of the metaterga (about 2/5 of their median height, with a straight foreprofile but on the the first metatergum), two lateral spots on 7th tergum, apical belts on 3rd to 5th sterna (1/4 their height), two lateral spots on 2nd sternum. Brown: the remainder of the mandibles and legs, the lateroterga and the dark portions of the sterna. Dark brown: flagellum and the dark portions of the terga.

BBS covering all the rounded anteroventral surface of the median flagellomeres. Fore surface of the median femurs all over with very weak and sparse pits bearing very thin bristles. Regularly spaced and shallow pits on the head and mesosoma; they are denser on the SAL and propodeum. Apical half of terga without pits and shining. White hair all over head and metasoma, denser on the SAL and propodeum.

Noteworthy are the shape of the genitalia, in particular the paramere in ventral view, the volsella and the aedeagus, the last one with a narrowed tip and lateral perpendicular lamina.

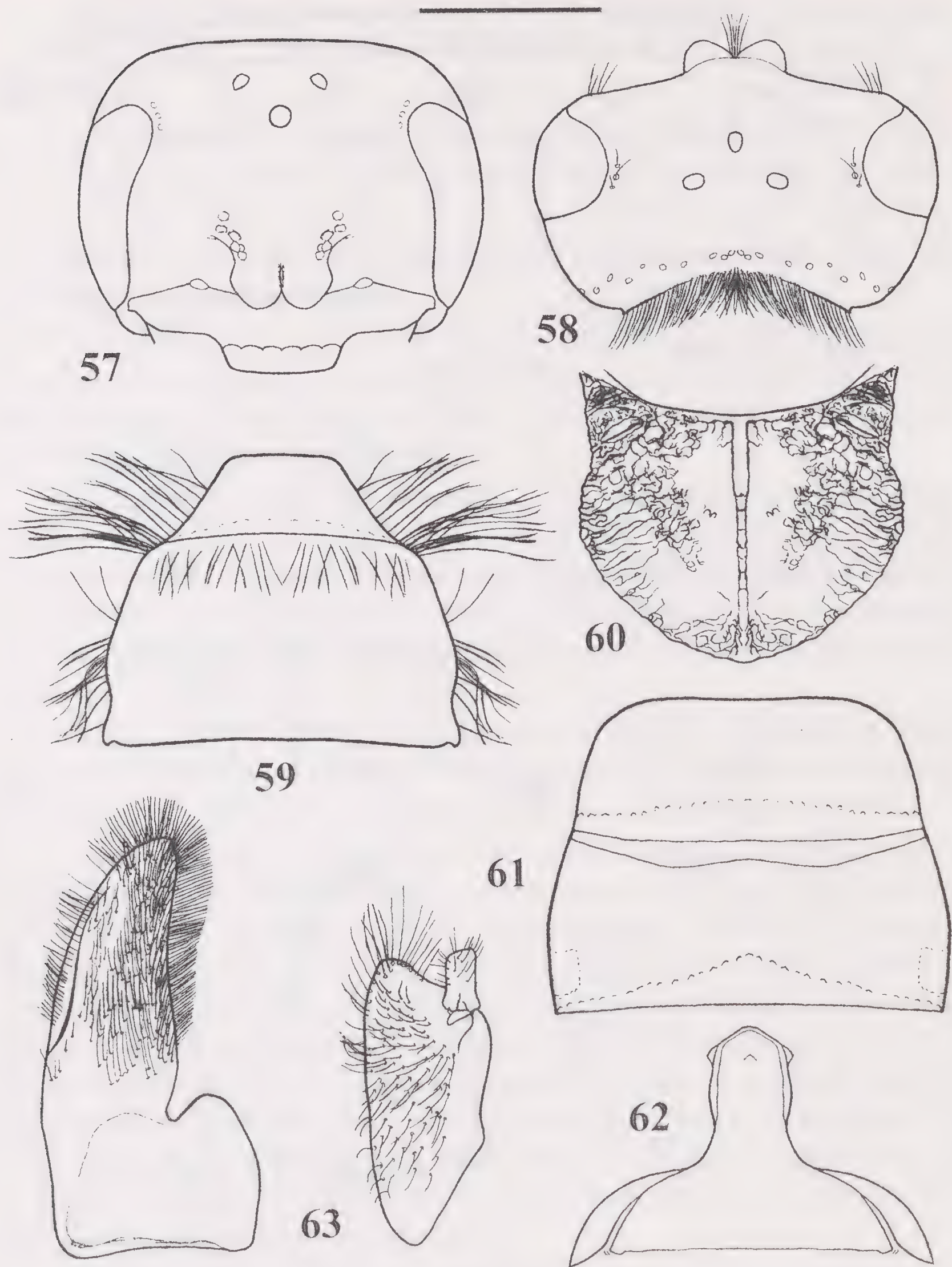
The comparison of the typical specimens confirmed the above listed synonymy.

Female: unknown

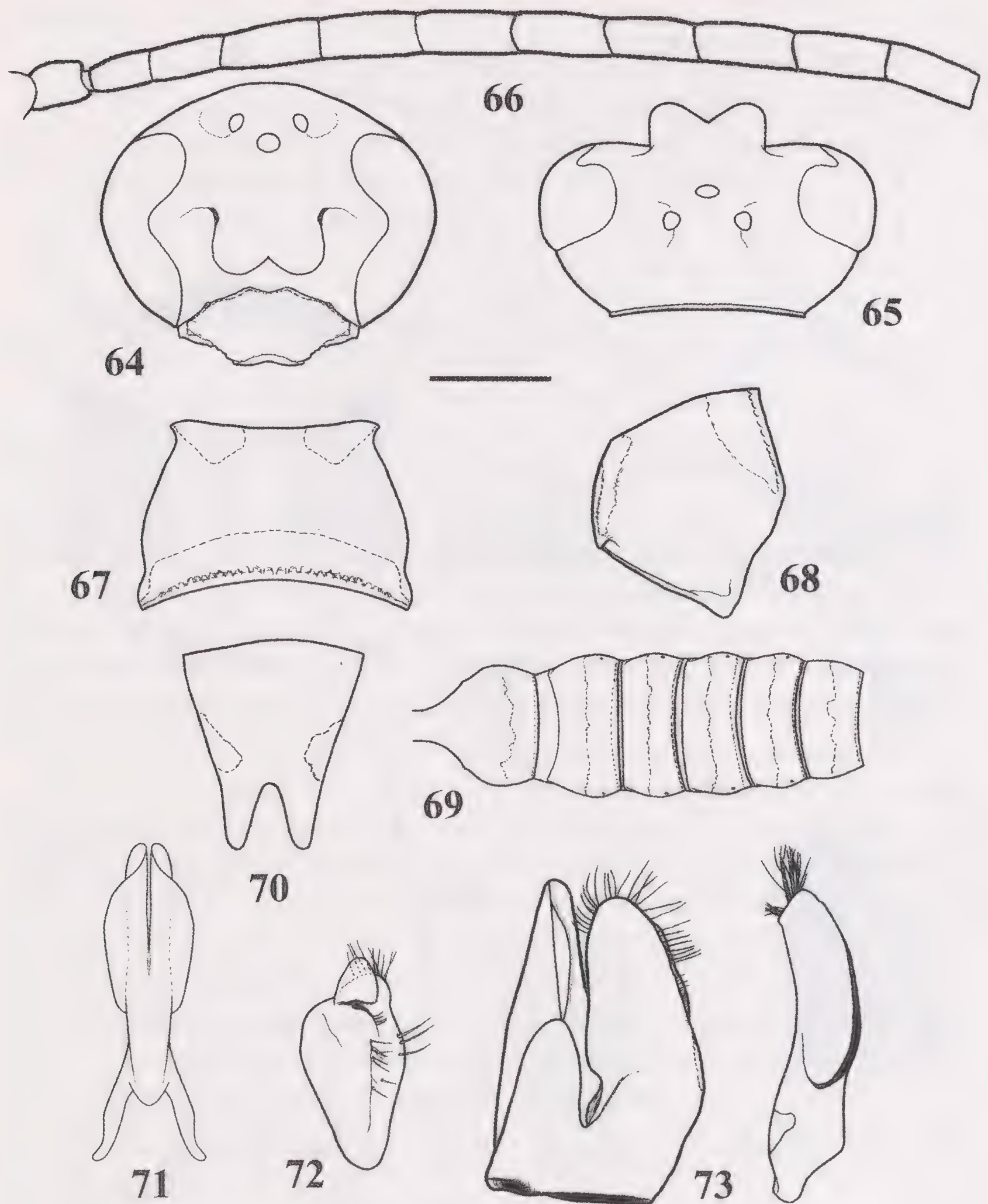
Note. The distribution area appears to range along the oriental Afrotropical Region.

Meria caspica Radoszkowsky, 1887

Meria caspica Radoszkowsky, 1887: 98 [Lectotype ♀, Turkmenistan = "Ashabad (yellow)/ *caspica* ♀ *Rad* (autographic)/ *Askabad Radoszkowski* (not original)/



Figs. 57-63: Figs. 57-62 = *Meria arabica* ♀. 57: head, frontal aspect; 58: head, dorsal aspect; 59: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 60: propodeum, dorsal aspect; 61: 1st and 2nd terga, dorsal aspect; 62: 1st metamere, ventral aspect. Fig. 63 = *Meria arabica* ♂: paramere and volsella.
Figs. 57-62: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 63: scale bar: 0.5 mm



Figs. 64-73: = *Meria cingulata* ♂ (Holotype). 64: head, frontal aspect; 65: head, dorsal aspect; 66: antenna, from above; 67: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 68: pronotum, lateral aspect; 69: metasoma without 7th metamere; 70: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 71: aedeagus, ventral aspect; 72: volsella; 73: paramere, outer (with aedeagus) and dorsal aspect.

Figs. 64-68, 70: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 69: scale bar: 2 mm; figs. 71-73: scale bar: 0.5 mm

Type (red)/ *Sapyga / caspica* / Lectotypus *Meria caspica* Rad. Design. Gorbato-
vsky (red)/ *Meria caspica* Rad. Gorbatovsky det. /" MNHU !]

Material.

- ♂: Uzbekistan = "Uzbek. 45 km zan Nisciana. 18.VII.1975 Gor-
batovsky (Cyrillic)/ *Meria caspica* Rad. Gorbatovsky det. 1986"
CP (2)

Female. figs 74–79 (from lectotype, which lacks most of the fla-
gella and the left fore wing).

Body black, brown and ferruginous red. Brown: mandibles (a bit
wasted), clypeus, SAL, antennae, forelegs, base of hypostoma. Fer-
ruginous red: median and hind legs, mesosternal lobes, metasternum,
metasoma (lacking any white spots).

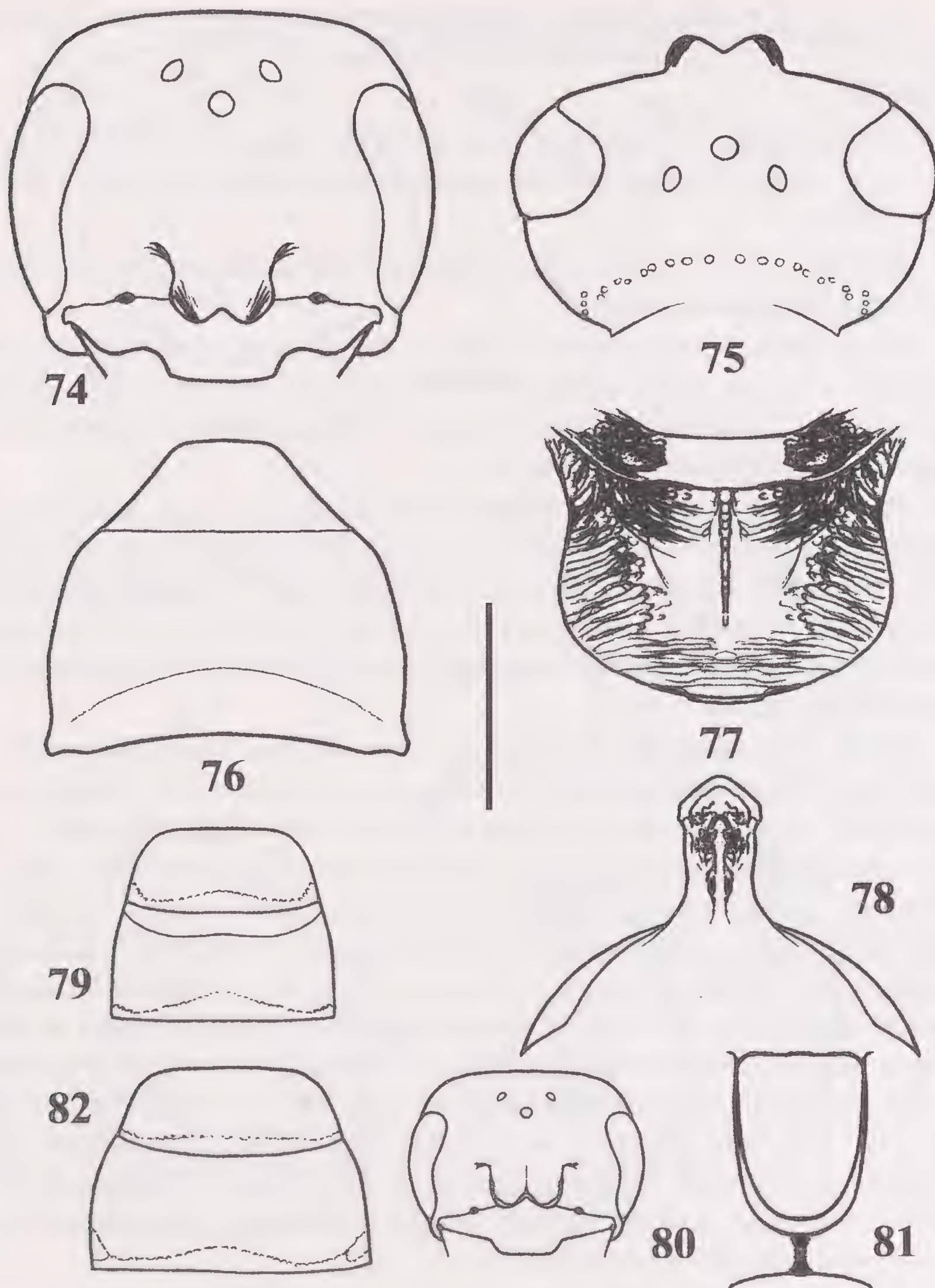
Hair, spines and calcaria whitish. Fore wings yellowish, hind wings
lighter. The base of the hypostoma reaches the occipital carina and no
genal bridge is expressed. Propodeal disk strongly wrinkled sideways
and toward propodeal foramen, with a strong median furrow reaching
the declining area; dense strong setigerous pits on its anterolateral area
near the spiracles.

Note. The lectotype is the unique specimen so far quoted; many
specimens are just so labelled in collections (e.g. at *arabica* chorologi-
cal item) but their correct position has to be more deeply checked.

The paralectotype labelled "*Askabad Radoszkowski* (not origi-
nal)/Type (red) / Paralectotypus *Meria caspica* Rad. Design. Gorbato-
vsky (red)/ *Meria caspica* Rad. Gorbatovsky det." MNHU, !, actually
belongs to a different species, because it has very different head in
frontal aspect (Fig. 80 - 82), well expressed genal bridge (absent in the
lectotype) and different basal metamere. Probably it has to be referred
to the female of *Meria aprica* Gorbatovsky, 1981 (its typical material
has been inaccessible to me), nevertheless the different ratios from the
descriptions given by Gorbatovsky about OF length / GB length, H_e
width / H_e height and the entirely bright ferruginous metasoma force
to suspend any relative conclusion.

Male: the figs 83 – 92 show the main features of one quoted speci-
men.

Note. Gorbatovsky has labelled, besides the males from Central
Asia, a stock of males from North Eastern Africa, SW Asia and Ara-
bian peninsula (actually belonging to a distinct, and probably new
taxon) at BMNH and some specimens [actually *latifasciata* Palma,



Figs. 74-82: = *Meria caspica* ♀ (Lectotype). 74: head, frontal aspect; 75: head, dorsal aspect; 76: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 77: propodeum, dorsal aspect; 78: 1st and 2nd terga, dorsal aspect; 79: 1st metamere, ventral aspect. (Paratype). 80: head, frontal aspect; 81: hypostomal area, ventral aspect; 82: 1st and 2nd terga, dorsal aspect.

Figs. 74-77, 79, 81: scale bar: 1 mm; figs. 78, 80, 82 : scale bar: 2 mm

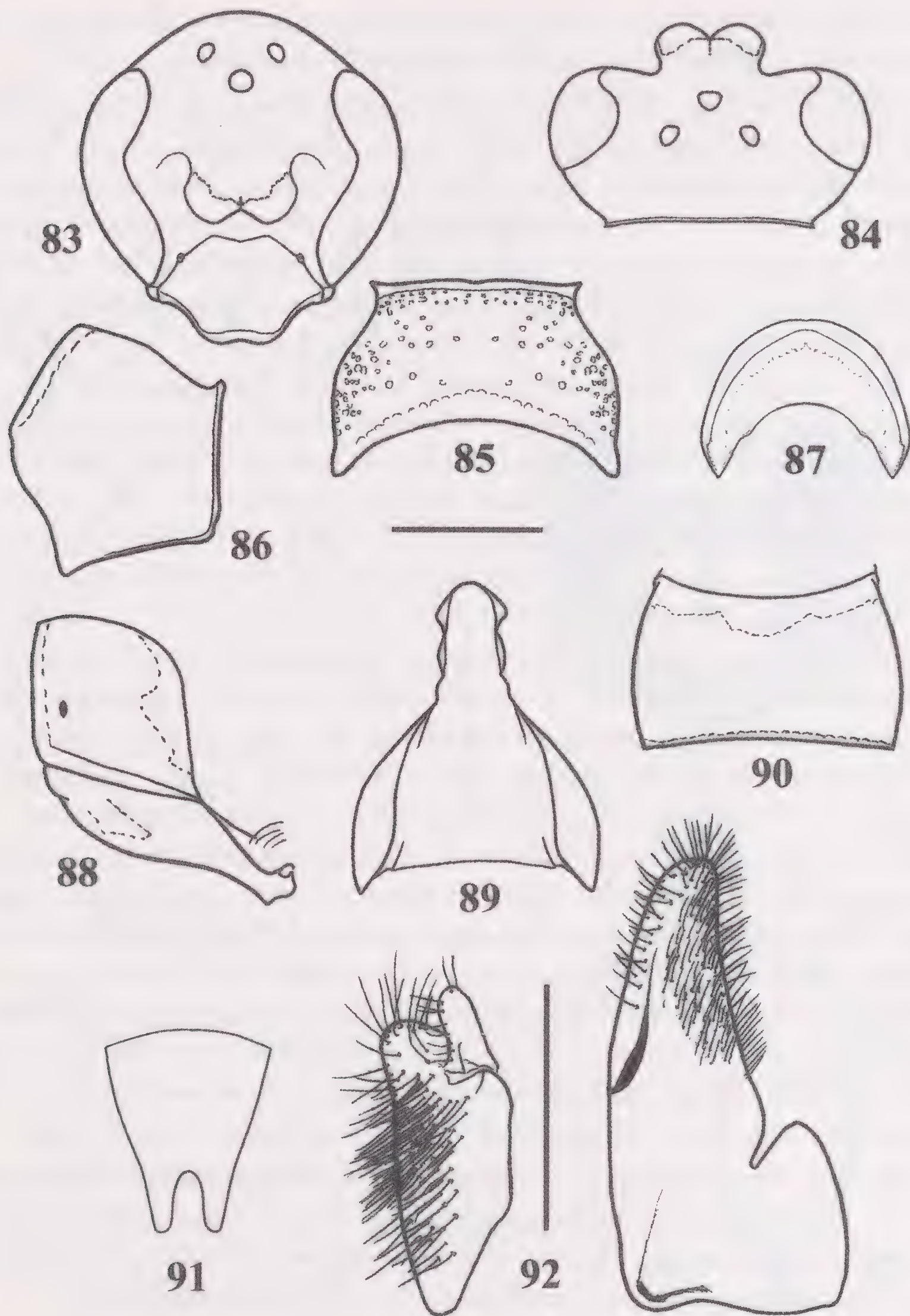
1869 (BONI BARTALUCCI, 1999: 16-18)] from Sicily. I feel that only the males from Central Asia could be reasonably ascribed to *caspica*.

They have some affinities with the males here recorded under *arabica*, from which they differ in the shape of the head, narrower pronotum, much less pitted body, black basic colour (reddish brown in *arabica*), different ratio width/height of the second tergum in dorsal aspect, deeper notch of the epipygium, with lateral sides of its lobes clearly convergent backward (parallel in *arabica*), quite different genitalia. They show still more affinities with the males of *ashabadensis*, the females of which are heavily different from the lectotype of *caspica*. I examined the lectotype of *askhabadensis* ["Ashabad (yellow)/ *Askabad Radoszkowsky* (autographic)/ *ashabadensis* / Type (red) / *Lectotypus Meria askhabadensis* Rad. Design. Gorbatovsky (red) / *Meria askhabadensis* Rad. Gorbatovsky det. 1978"] at MNHU (Figs. 93 – 100), another specimen determined by Gorbatovsky (Turkmenistan = "Kopet-dag Kara-Kala 5.VII.1974 V.Gorbatovsky", in Cyrillic, MSNG) and two specimens having the autographic determination by Radoszkowsky at MHNG. The differences with the supposed males of *caspica* are mainly based on the colour patterns (*askhabadensis* has yellow spots on the propodeal disk even in the darker specimens), shape of the dorsal surface of the propodeum (in *askhabadensis* the declining surface is clearly flattened, with a detectable angle between it and the horizontal area, while in the specimen ascribed to *caspica* there is no detectable angle between them and the dorsal declining surface is more rounded); supplementary differences are the shape of the clypeal disk and head in frontal aspect, pronotum in lateral aspect, epipygium in dorsal aspect and genitalia, but they are not so stressed as to exclude we are dealing with an infraspecific variability. I rely upon the authority of Gorbatovsky about their distinction.

At any way because of the poor sample of specimens I have seen and in waiting for a definitive proof about a more reliable coupling of males with females of *caspica*, the argumentations here proposed do not claim to be exhaustive and definitive, but only indicative.

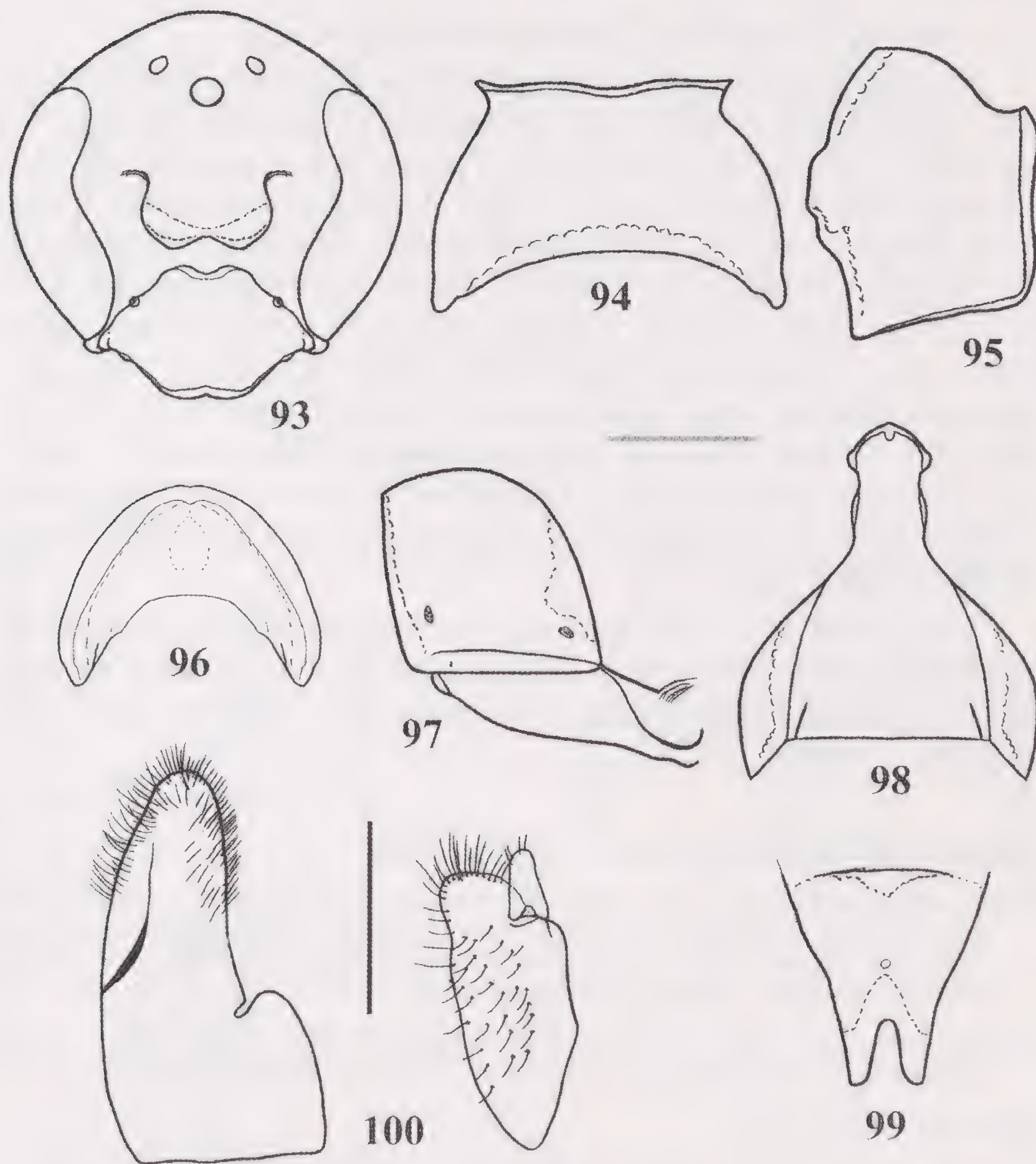
***Meria rufinodis* (Turner, 1910) n. comb.**

Myzine rufinodis Turner, 1910: 392-394 [Designation of Lectotype ♂, South Africa = "*Africa austr. Drège / petiolaris / Capland Drège S./ 6236 / Myzine rufinodis* Turn. Type (autographic)/ Type (red) / Zool. Mus. Berlin" MNHU !] and Para-



Figs. 83-92: = *Meria caspica* ♂. 83: head, frontal aspect; 84: head, dorsal aspect; 85: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 86: pronotum, lateral aspect; 87: pronotal plate, frontal aspect; 88: 1st metamere, lateral aspect; 89: 1st metamere, ventral aspect; 90: 2nd tergum, dorsal aspect; 91: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 92: volsella and paramere.

Figs. 83-91: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 92: scale bar: 0.5 mm



Figs. 93-100 = *Meria askhabadensis* ♂. 93: head, frontal aspect; 94: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 95: pronotum, lateral aspect; 96: pronotal plate, frontal aspect; 97: 1st metamere, lateral aspect; 98: 1st metamere, ventral aspect; 99: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 100: paramere and volsella.

Figs. 93-99: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 100: scale bar: 0.5 mm

lectotypus ♂, South Africa = "*Capland Drège S / Myzine rufinodis* Turn. Cotype (autographic) / *Cotype* (red) / Zool Mus. Berlin" MNHU (1) !

Material.

- ♂: Angola = "Angola, NE Mocamedes" BMNH (3)

Namibia = "Marienfluss 4-8 km S. Otjinungwa SE 1712 Ac 21-22 Nov. 1970 / NNIC" NMN (3); "Riverside 135 Bethanie SE 2616 Ca 23-26 Oct 1971/ NNIC" NMN (1); "Plateau 38 Luderitz SE 2616 Cb 4-5 Mar 1972 / NNIC" NMN (1); "S.W. Africa Noachabeb. 27mls. NNE. Grunau 10-12.I.1972", BMNH (3); "Ghaub 47 Tsumeb SE 1917 Bc/d 19-28 Nov. 1972 / NNIC" NMN (1); "Windhoek SE 2217 Ca 7-12 Oct 1973 / NNIC" NMN (1); "Idem, 1-4 Nov 1973/ NNIC" NMN (1); "/ Idem, 9-12 Nov 1973/ NNIC" NMN (1); "*Namibia*, Omaruru District 2 km W Brandberg West 20°58'05''S 14°06'36''E 22-24.X.1998 Kirk-Spriggs & Marais Malaise trap / NNIC" NMN (3); "Namibia: Khorixas Dist., Huab River at Krone 721 20°37'09''S 13°54'31''E 23-26.X.1998 Kirk-Spriggs & Marais Malaise trap sample / NNIC" NMN (1)

The figures 101 - 106 have been drawn from one specimen from Marienfluss and perfectly fit to the holotype. The red colour is spreading out to the sides up to 6th tergum in most of the Namibian specimens.

***Meria rufonigra* (Bingham, 1911) n. comb.**

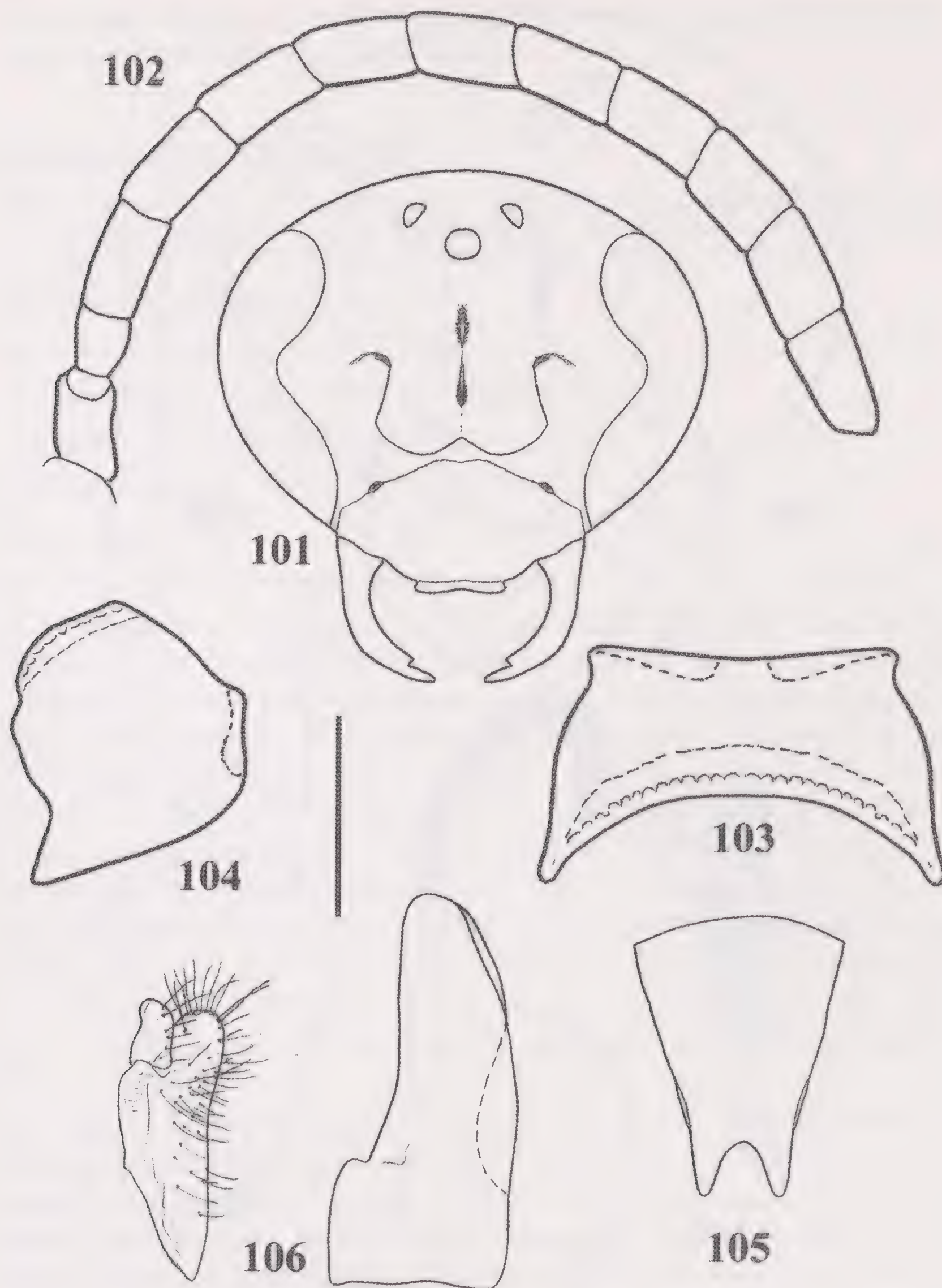
Myzine rufonigra Bingham, 1911: 559-560 [Holotype ♂, Zimbabwe = "*D377 Bulawayo 9/9/05 / 377 S.Rhodesia*, about 4600 ft., Bulawayo, nr. Waterworks. Capt. Sept.9.05 & pres. 1905 by F.A.Dixey/ 1905 8948/ Tr.Ent.Soc., 1907, p.309/ *Myzine rufo-nigra* ♂ Bingham. Type (autographic)" OUM!]

Myzine consanguinea Turner, 1912: 735-736 (Holotype ♂, Zimbabwe = "*August - Caia Zambesi* H. Swale. / Swale Coll. 1912-120 / Typus /" BMNH!) **n. syn.**

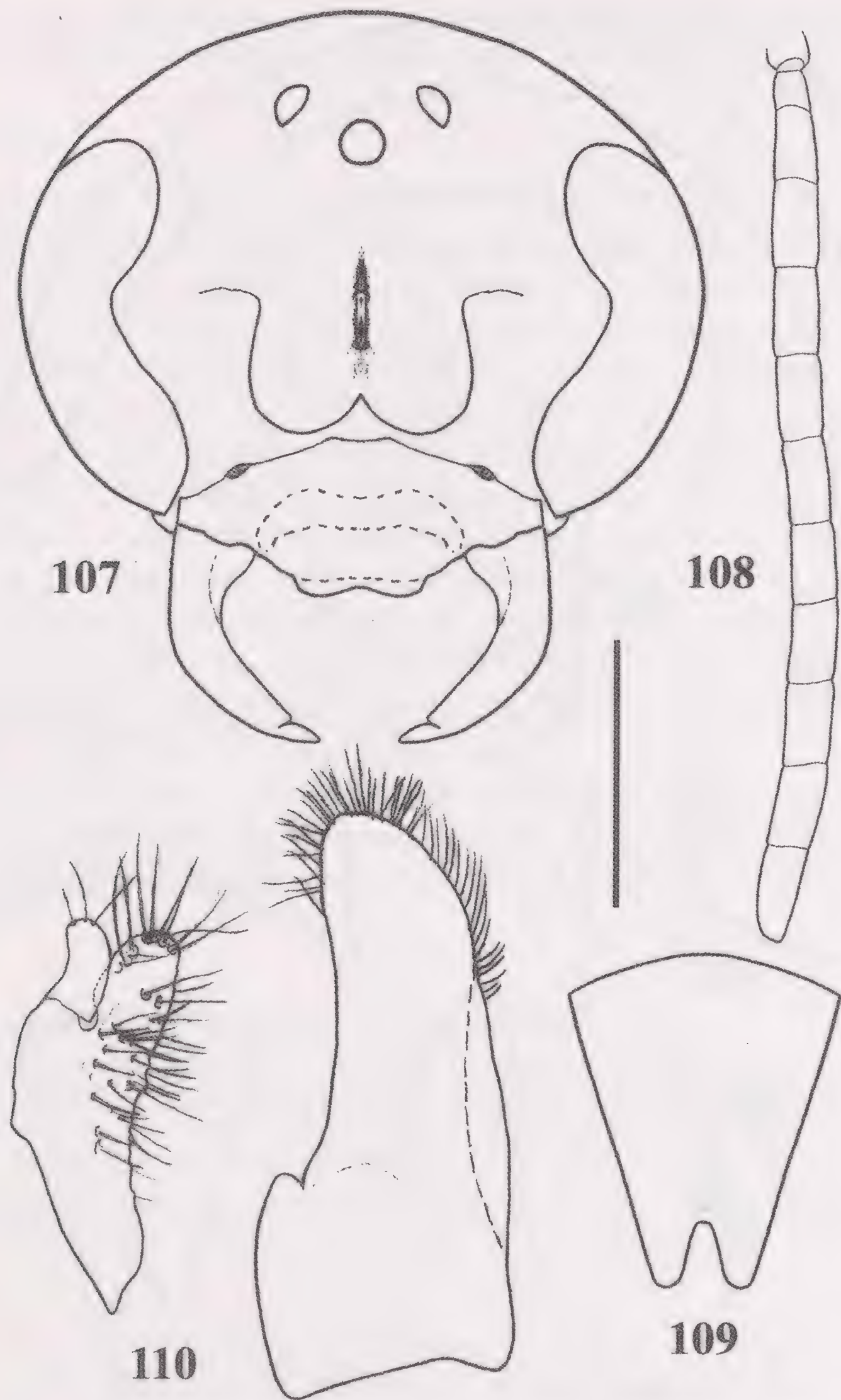
Material.

- ♂: Zimbabwe = "*lonelis* (?)", Rhodesia, 25.9.13, H.Swale / 3732 / Swale Coll 1919-120" BMNH (1); "Abercom, N.Rhodesia, 16-6-1945, Nat. Museum, S.Rhodesia/ *Meria consanguinea* (Turner) ♂ Det. Jacod Guillardmod" SAM (1)

The figs. 107 - 110 have been drawn from the BMNH specimen (compared to the Turner's type) and perfectly fit to the holotype of *rufonigra*. The main differences from *rufinodis*, beyond those showed



Figs. 101-106: = *Meria rufinodis* ♂. 101: head, frontal aspect; 102: antenna, from above; 103: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 104: pronotum, lateral aspect; 105: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 106: volsella and paramere.
Figs. 101-105: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 106: scale bar: 0.5 mm



Figs. 107-110: = *Meria rufonigra* ♂. 107: head, frontal aspect; 108: antenna, from above; 109: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 110: paramere and volsella. Figs. 107, 109: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 108: scale bar: 2 mm; fig. 110: scale bar: 0.5 mm

by the figures, are well explained in the identification key for the males with some red colour on the metasoma.

***Meria discussa* Guiglia, 1963**

Meria discussa Guiglia, 1973: (Holotype ♀, "Mongolia: Chovd aimak, 10 km SSW von Somon Bulgan 1200 m Exp. Dr. Z. Kaszab 1966/ Nr.628 4-5.VII.1966/ *Meria discussa* Guiglia 1973 ♀, *Typus!* (red), det. Dott. D. Guiglia" MNH !)

Meria discussa: Gorbатовsky (1980: 317)

Meria investiganda: Gorbатовsky (1980: 317)

Meria similis: Gorbатовsky (1980: 317)

Meria perfecta: Gorbатовsky (1980: 317)

Meria quadrimaculata: Gorbатовsky (1990: 284)

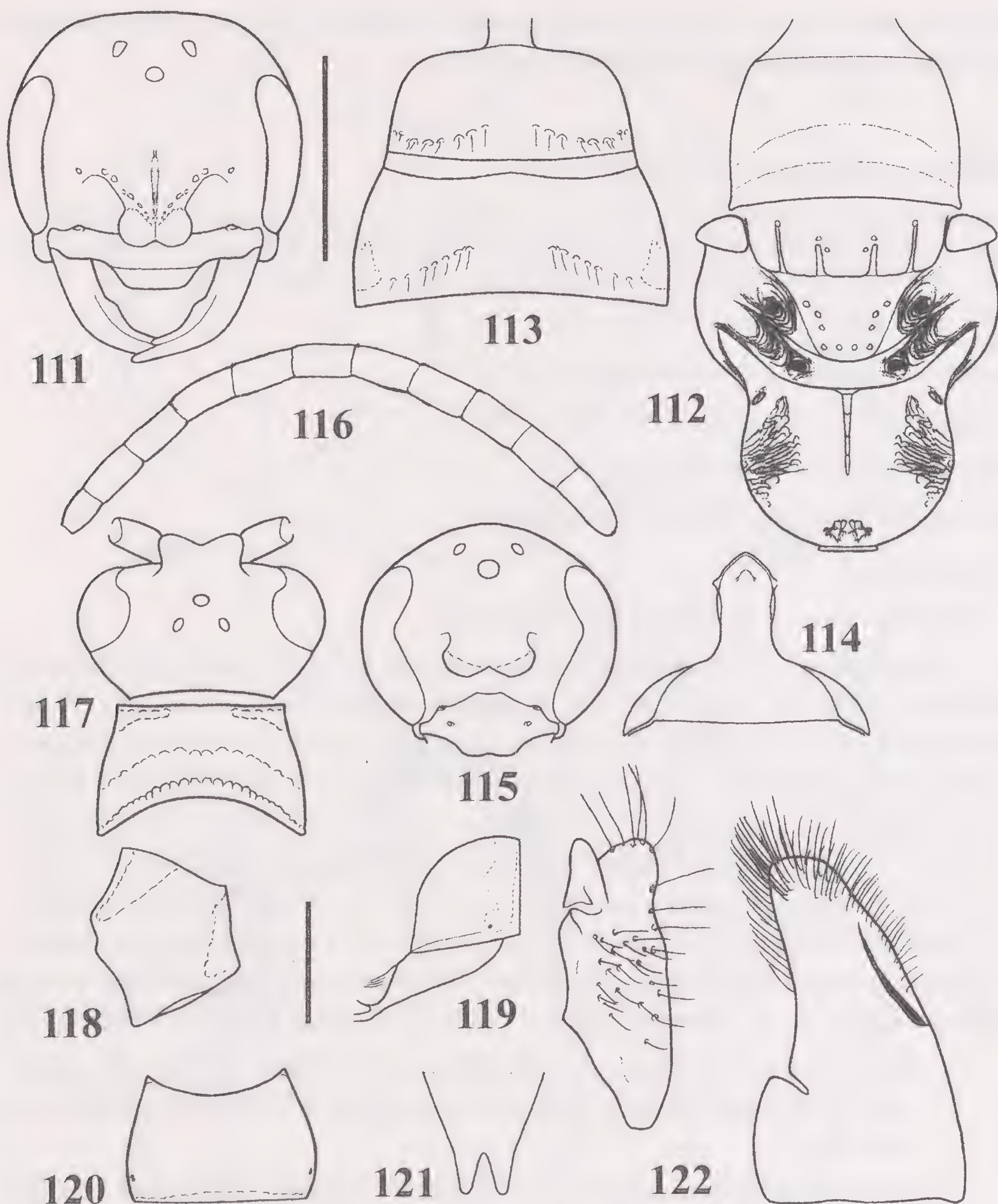
Material.

- ♀: Figs. 111 - 114 (from the Holotype)

Mongolia = "Mongolia: Chovd aimak 10 km SSW von Somon Bulgan 1200 m Exp. Dr. Z. Kaszab 1966/ Nr.628 4-5.VII.1966" MSNG (1); "Mongolia: Mittelgobi aimak 20 km S von Somon Delgerzagt 1480 m Exp. Dr. Z. Kaszab 1967/ Nr. 915 13-14.VII.1967/ *Meria investiganda* Guiglia, 1973 ♀, *Typus!* (red) det. Dott. D. Guiglia" MNH (1); "Mongolia: Bajanchongor aimak Cagan Bogd ul zw. Talyn bilgech bulag und Caganbulag 25 km WSW v. Quelle 1450 m Exp. Dr. Z. Kaszab 1967/ Nr.842 24.VI.1967" MSNG (1); "Mongolia: Bajanchongor aimak Oase Echin gol 90 km NO von Grenzposten Caganbulag 950 m Exp. Dr. Z. Kaszab 1967 / Nr.855 27-28.VI.1967" MSNG (1)

- ♂: Figs. 115 - 122 (from the Holotype of *Meria similis*; the genitalia have been drawn from the specimen with the same label at MSNG)

Mongolia = "Mongolia: Chovd aimak 10 km SSW von Somon Bulgan 1200 m Exp. Dr. Z. Kaszab 1966/ Nr.628 4-5.VII.1966/ *Meria similis* Guiglia, 1975 ♂ *Typus* (red), det. Dott. D. Guiglia" MNH (1); same locality label, MSNG (1); "Mongolia: Chovd aimak Mongol Altaj Gebirge Uljasutajn gol 45 km NNO von Somon Bulgan 1400 m Exp. Dr. Z. Kaszab 1966/ Nr. 639 6-7.VI.1966/ *Meria perfecta* Guiglia, 197 ♂ *Typus* (red) det. Dott. D. Guiglia" MNH (1); "Mongolia: Bajanchongor aimak oase Echin gol 90 km NO von Grenzposten Cacanbulag 950 m Exp. Dr. Z. Kaszab. 1967" MSNG (2).



Figs. 111-122: Figs. 111-114 = *Meria discussa* ♀ (Holotype). 111: head, frontal aspect; 112: mesosoma, dorsal aspect; 113: 1st and 2nd terga, dorsal aspect; 114: 1st metamere, ventral aspect. Figs. 115-122 = *Meria discussa* ♂. 115: head, frontal aspect; 116: antenna, from above; 117: head and pronotum, dorsal aspect; 118: pronotum, lateral aspect; 119: 1st metamere, lateral aspect; 120: 2nd tergum, dorsal aspect; 121: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 122: volsella and paramere. (♀) Figs. 111-114: scale bar: 1mm; (♂) figs. 115-121: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 122: scale bar: 0.25 mm

Note. GORBATOVSKY (1980) first established the synonymy of *investiganda* (♀), *similis* (♂) and *perfecta* (♂) with *discussa* (♀), then (1990) considered the last one a junior synonym of *Meria quadrimaculata* Cameron, 1902 (♀). We agree with him about his first action, while the examination of the aforesaid holotype of *discussa*, the lectotype (Fig. 123-125) [India = “Deesa 3. 99./ *Meira 4-maculata* Cam. Type *Deesa* (autographic)/ Type (round label with red external ring)/ Syntype (round label with blue external ring)/ P.Cameron Coll. 1914-110/ B. M. Type Hym. 15.1529 / Lectotypus *Meria quadrimaculata* Cam.. Design. *Gorbatovsky, 1981* (red label)” BMNH !] and the paralectotype [India = “Deesa 3. 99./ *Meira 4-maculata* Cam. Type *Deesa* (autographic)/ Type (round label with red external ring)/ Syntype (round label with blue external ring)/ Col. C. G. Nurse Collection 1920-72/ Paralectotypus *Meria quadrimaculata* Cam. Design. *Gorbatovsky, 1981* (red label)” BMNH !] of *quadrimaculata* together with another specimen (“Deesa 9. 01./ Deesa, Bombay, C.G. Nurse 1913-139” BMNH) showed their diversity and forced to restore the validity of the former taxon. In support of this argumentation the different shape of head, pronotum and propodeum, the different metasomal colour and the fact that all the males from Disa I have examined are heavily distinct from those before listed stand well out.

NEW SPECIES

Palearctic Region

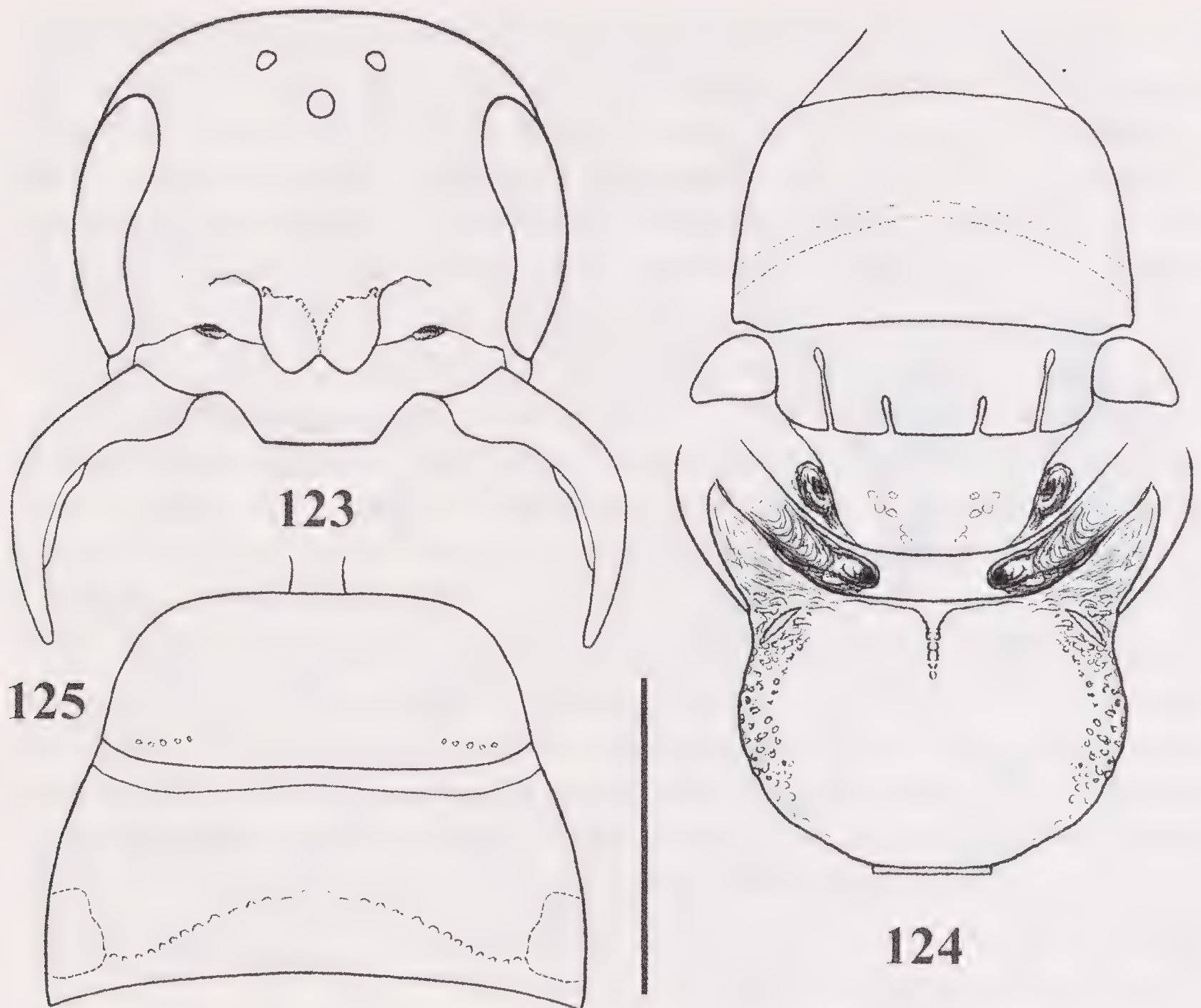
Meria anatolica n. sp.

Holotype ♂: Turkey = “*Tekkè* / Muséum Paris Coll. J. Perez, 1915”, MHNP

Paratypes ♂♂: Turkey = “Muséum Paris Coll. J. Perez, 1915”, MHNP (3)

Male: figs. 126 – 132 (from the Holotype). Measurements : body length = mm 11.5; fore wing length = mm 8.

Body pitch-black, brown and yellow. Brown: scape, flagellum, SAL tips, downer half of the clypeal disk, mandibles tip, coxae and trochanters, most of the femurs, an oblong spot on the downer surface of tibiae, the darker areas of the metasoma. Yellow: most of the clypeal disk, two spots on the anteroventral corners and an apical band on the pronotal disk, a distal band with sinuous, without invaginations

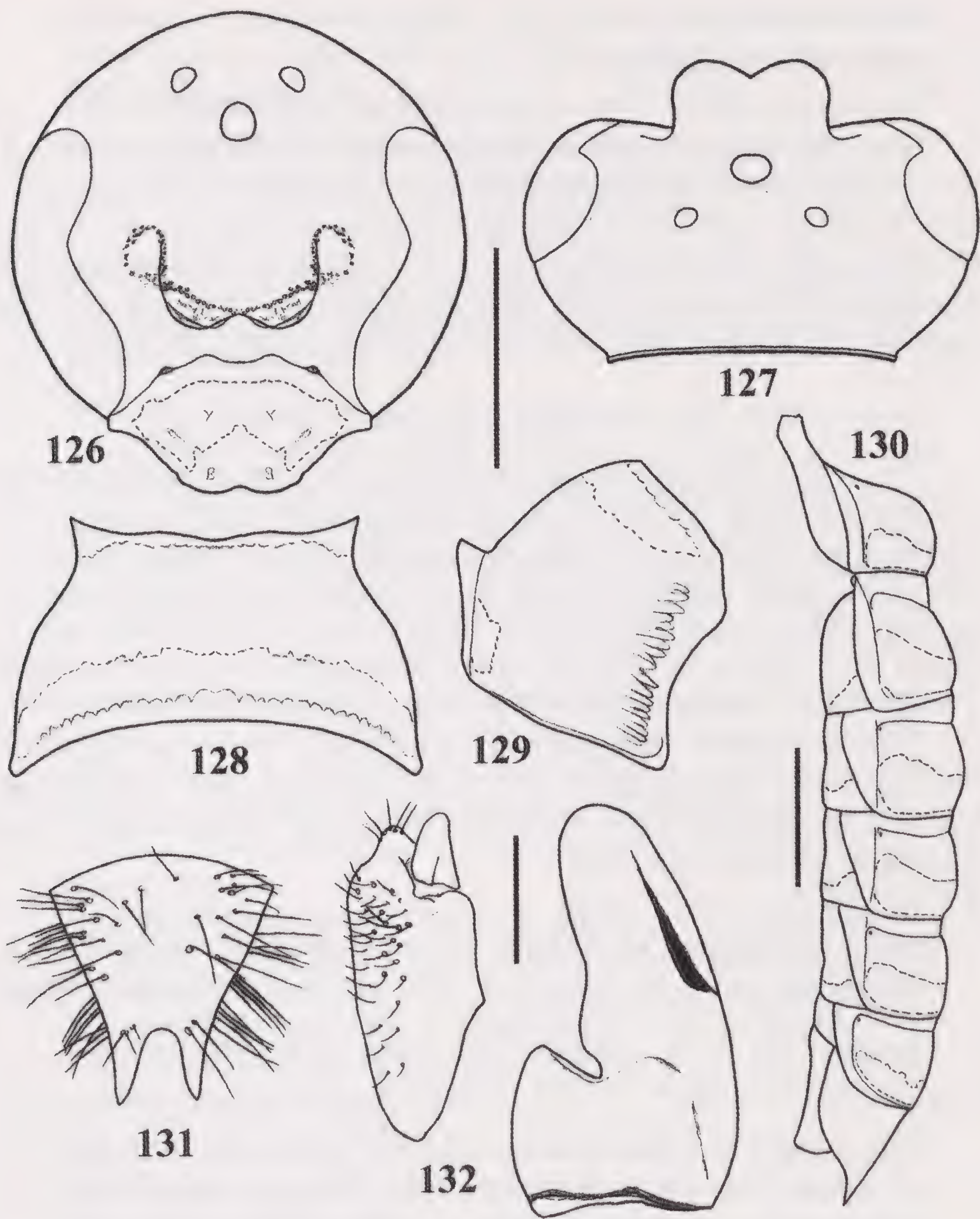


Figs. 123-125: = *Meria quadrimaculata* ♀ (Lectotype). 123: head, frontal aspect; 124: mesosoma, dorsal aspect; 125: 1st and 2nd terga, dorsal aspect. Figs. 123-125: scale bar: 1 mm

or notches, fore profile on 1st to 5th terga, distal bands with rectangular notches sideward on their fore profile on 2nd to 6th sterna.

BBS covering little more than half the visible middle flagellomeres; well developed keel along the fore border of the pronotal disk; upper metapleurae scarcely wrinkled, as smooth and shining downward as the posteroventral lateral area of the propodeum; horizontal area of the propodeal disk very weakly expressed, with no blunt angle, but gently rounded, between it and declining area. Fore surface of the median femurs smooth and shining, devoid of any pits and hair.

Variability: the other specimens vary in size (up to 13.5 mm) and a little bit in the colour patterns.



Figs. 126-132: = *Meria anatolica* n. sp. ♂ (Holotype). 126: head, frontal aspect; 127: head, dorsal aspect; 128: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 129: pronotum, lateral aspect; 130: metasoma, lateral aspect; 131: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 132: volsella and paramere.

Figs. 126-129, 131: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 130: scale bar: 1mm; fig. 132: scale bar: 0.25 mm

Female: unknown

Distribution: Anatolia.

Derivatio nominis: from the geographical area of provenance.

Note. Distinctive characters are the shape of the head (about 1.1 times higher than wide in frontal aspect) and volsella, the straight profiled (in lateral aspect) and point tipped (in dorsal aspect) lobes of the 7th tergum; the last one resembles to 7th tergum of *M. sanguinicollis* Morawitz, 1893 which has very different head, pronotum and genitalia together with a more massive size (BONI BARTALUCCI 1999: 19, figs 75-80).

Afrotropical Region

The males of seven species of *Meria* with partially red coloured metasoma were so far known, here reduced to six by the stated synonymy of *consanguinea* to *rufonigra*; three palaearctic: *cylindrica* Fabricius, 1793 (only the populations from Northern Africa)- *thoracica* Guérin, 1839 - *latifasciata* Palma, 1869 (only North African populations too) and three from Southern Afrotropical Region: *rufinodis* Turner, 1910 - *rufonigra* Bingham 1911- *vonizongo* Krombein, 1949.

Two new species from the Northern tropical Africa, having some red colour on the metasoma, are here described; the relationships among themselves and with the above mentioned taxa are clarified by the following dichotomic key:

- 1 Ferruginous colour confined to the last two metameres and anal hook; volsella with transparent strong spines about its median height. Madagascar *vonizongo* Krombein, 1949
- Ferruginous colour more or less extended only to basal metameres; volsella without any spines 2
- 2 - Fore border of the pronotal disk surrounded by a strong prominent keel along its entire length. The outer border of the paramere, at about its median height, bends toward the inner border up to meet it and forming a sort of broad, upward open impression on its dorsal surface (well visible in dorsal aspect); the inner border is completely exposed in lateral aspect. Northern Africa and Arabian peninsula. *cylindrica* Fabricius, 1793; *thoracica* Guérin, 1839; *latifasciata* Palma, 1869
- Fore border of the pronotal disk without any keel but simply angled at most. The outer border of the paramere does not

- bend toward the inner border, not forming any incision; the inner border is completely, or mostly so, hidden by the outer one in lateral aspect. 3
- 3 - Fore surface of the median femurs without pits and hairless; supraclypeal area smooth and shining without any bristles. 4
- Fore surface of the median femurs entirely and regularly covered by weak pits and hair; supraclypeal area roughly sculptured with scattered bristles. 5
- 4 Base of the oral fossa large, prominent and transparent; genal bridge not expressed; maxillary palp shorter (8/10) than stipe; yellow bands on the apical border of metameres as high as half the height of the element, with subrectilinear fore profile; height of digitus 1/3 the height of the volsella; cuspis strongly produced, as high as digitus. Somaliland *micruroides* n. sp.
- Base of the oral fossa very narrow, darkened and flat; genal bridge expressed; maxillary palp 1.2 times longer than stipe; yellow bands on the apical borders of the metameres narrow with irregular fore profile; height of digitus 1/4 the height of the volsella; cuspis weakly expressed and much lower than digitus. Sahel *pulchella* n. sp.
- 5 Head subtriangular; base of the oral fossa darkened, large and prominent; genal bridge and genal suture not expressed; light coloured spots on 1st tergum; 7th tergum (epipygium) with a notch larger than high and sub acute tips (dorsal aspect). South Western Africa *rufinodis* (Turner, 1912)
- Head rounded; base of the oral fossa darkened, but narrow and flattened; genal bridge and genal suture well expressed; 1st tergum without light spots; 7th tergum with a notch higher than large and rounded tips. Zimbabwe. *rufonigra* (Bingham, 1911)

***Meria micruroides* n. sp.**

Holotype: ♂, Somaliland = “Somalia Afmadù 22/ VIII/ (19)59 leg. Miss. Bio./ 543” MZUF

Male: figs. 133 – 140 (Holotype). Measurements: body length = mm 10.5; fore wing length = 7.0.

Body brown-black, pale yellow and bright ferruginous. Pale yellow: clypeal disk, apex of the SAL, a spot on the scape, mandibles, most of the pronotal disk but a small median spot and sideways, tegulae, a large spot on the mesopleurae, all the tarsi, spots on the coxae, the whole fore tibia, most of the median and hind tibiae, fore femur, apex of median and hind femurs, mesosternal lobes, large apical bands with entire fore profile on 1st to 6th terga, on 2nd to 6th sterna, two lateral spots on 7th tergum. Bright ferruginous: 1st metamere (brown shadows on the petiole), 2nd, 3rd metameres and 4th tergum (but the relative pregradular areas which are black), basal half of the 4th sternum, most of 5th tergum, a few of the 5th sternum. Light brown: flagellum, the remainder of legs, tips of 7th tergum (epipygium) and 8th sternum (hypopygium).

Base of the oral fossa large, transparent and prominent; no genal bridge expressed. BBS weakly detectable, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the visible surface. Fore border of the pronotal disk only gently angled all over its length, without any trace of an anteroventral tooth or sharp edge. Metapleurae weakly wrinkled. Supraclypeal area and fore surface of the median femurs shining and hairless. All the body regularly pitted, metasoma with more scattered pits and weak metallic reflections. White hair all over the body, nowhere hiding the underlying integument.

Female: unknown

Distribution: only the typical locality.

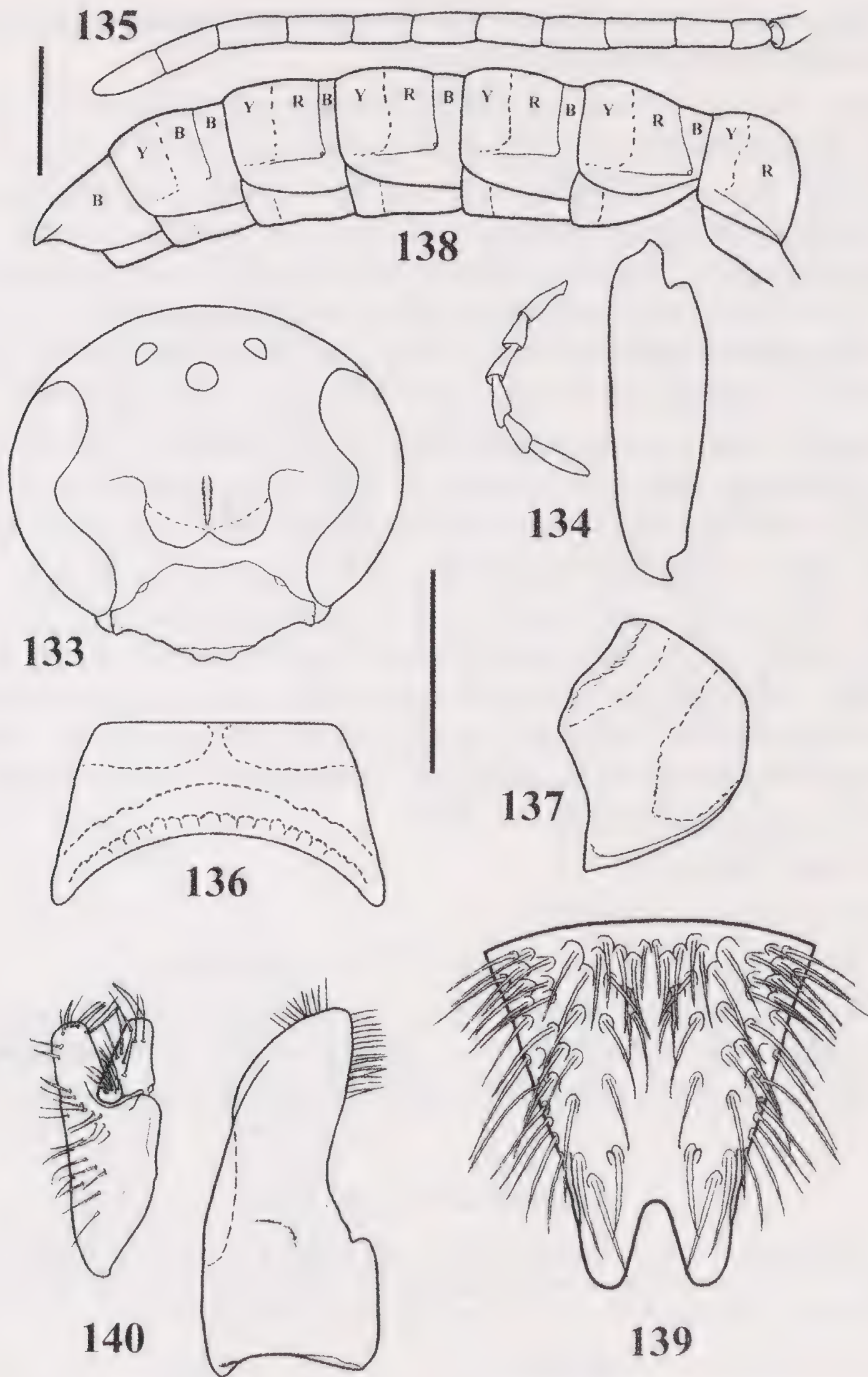
Derivatio nominis: from the generic name of the “coral snake” (*Micrurus* sp.), to the colour patterns of which the colour sequence of the terga strongly resembles, as shown by the Fig. 136.

Note: it is a well distinguished species by the characters described in the key and figured.

***Meria pulchella* n. sp.**

Holotype: ♂, Senegal = “Fété-Olé Ferlo Sénégal – Gillon *B 11H 14.1.1972*” MHNP.

Paratypes: ♂♂, Senegal = “Senegal Casamance *Boutéme 11-03-961* B.Sigwalt leg.” MHNP (1). Niger = “Niger Niamey I 1978 G. Popov / *Meria rufinodis* (Turn) Gorbатовsky det. 1987” BMNH (1).



Figs. 133-140: = *Meria micruroides* n. sp. ♂ (Holotype). 133: head, frontal aspect; 134: MP and stipe; 135: antenna, from above; 136: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 137: pronotum, lateral aspect; 138: metasoma, lateral aspect; 139: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 140: volsella and paramere. Figs. 133,136,137: scale bar: 1 mm; figs. 135,138: scale bar: 2 mm; figs. 134,139 : scale bar: 0.5 mm; fig. 140 : scale bar =0.25 mm

Male: figs. 141 – 148 (from Holotype). Measurements: body length = 11.5 mm; forewing length = 8.0 mm.

Body black, yellow and bright ferruginous. Yellow: mandibles, clypeal disk (translucent fore border), two large spots along the fore border and one apical band on the pronotal disk, tarsi, median and hind tibiae (with some brown areas), apex of femurs, ventral coxae, mesosternal lobes, transversal apical bands (with irregular profile) on the 1st to 6th metaterga and metasterna. Bright ferruginous: 1st metamere (but petiole and most of the sternum), 2nd metamere (but posterior brown shadows), shadows on 3rd to 5th terga and 3rd sternum.

Genal bridge expressed, as long as 1/3 the length of the oral fossa; base of the latter narrow and flattened. BBS hardly visible at x100 magnitudo too, apparently covering all the visible surface of the flagellum.

Rounded prominent area between MO and SAL. Pronotal disk without keel on its fore border, which is swollen and clearly angled, with a weak but evident anteroventral tooth. Metapleurae wholly wrinkled. Supraclypeal area and fore surface of the median femurs shining and hairless. Whitish hair all over the body, nowhere covering the underlying integument. Regularly spaced and quite weak pits over the body; pit less area around ocelli.

Female: unknown

Distribution: Sahel

Derivatio nominis: from its fine appearance.

Note. The relative size of the maxillary palp, the presence of the genal bridge, the different colour pattern of the metasoma and the shape of the volsella are the distinctive characters from *micruroides*.

Myzinella Guiglia, 1959

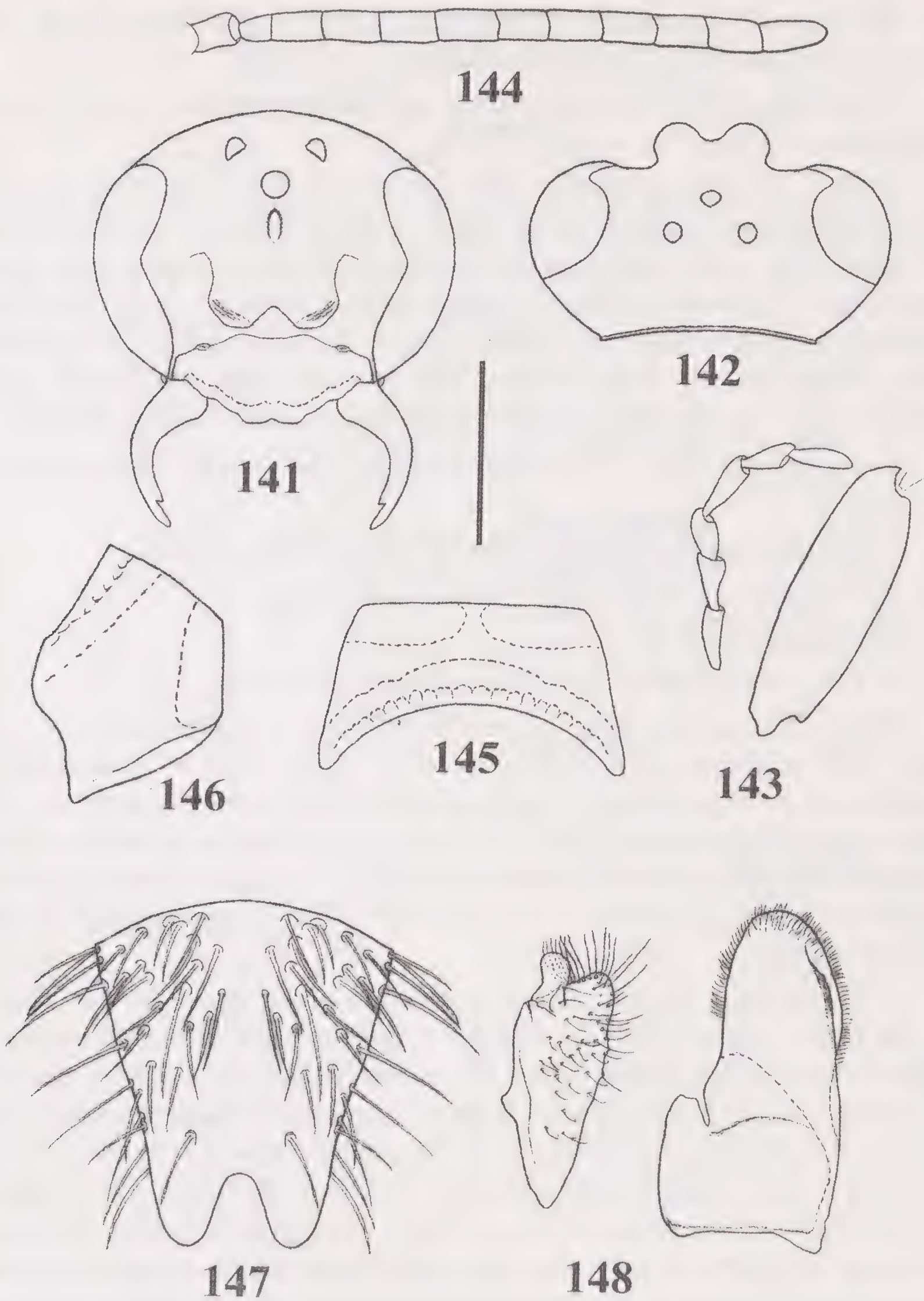
Myzinella Guiglia, 1959: 2-5 [Species typus: *Myzinella patrizii* Guiglia, 1959 ; Holotype ♂: Lybia = “Miss. Zool. a Cufra, Cufra, *El Tallab* VI 1931/ *patrizii* Guig. Typus det. Dott. D. Guiglia / Typus (red types)” MSNG !]

Myzinella: Gorbатовsky (1979: 623, 615)

Myzinella: Boni Bartalucci (1999: 23, 25)

Myzinella bambeyana n. sp.

Holotype: ♂, Senegal = “Senegal Bambey 1914 J Risbec./ Pres. By Com. Inst. Ent., B.M. 1950-96 /” BMNH



Figs. 141-148: = *Meria pulchella* n. sp. ♂ (Holotype). 141: head, frontal aspect; 142: head, dorsal aspect; 143: MP and stipe; 144: antenna from above; 145: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 146: pronotum, lateral aspect; 147: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 148: volsella and paramere.
Figs. 141,142,145,146: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 144: scale bar: 2 mm; fig. 143,147,148: scale bar: 0.5 mm

Paratype: ♀, Senegal = "Senegal: Bambey. J.Risbec./ Pres. By Com. Inst. Ent. B.M. 1950-96" BMNH

Male: figs. 149 – 154 (from holotype). Measurements: body 8 mm; fore wing : 4.5 mm

Black, brown and yellow. Yellow = most of the clypeus; mandibles; SAL tips; anteroventral teeth of the pronotum; the entire pronotal disk; a big spot on the scutum; tegulae; ventral forecoxae; legs from half femur to distal tarsomere; bands on the 1st to 6th terga, covering less than half their surface, the ones on 3rd to 5th sterna with an entire fore profile. Brown = the sterna. The pronotal disk has a clear keel along its fore border and an acute tooth on its antero ventral border.

Female: figs. 155 – 156 (from paratype, which lacks head and pronotum).

Uniformly brown; it looks like *M. lybica* (Masi, 1933).

Distribution: only the typical locality.

Ecology: unknown

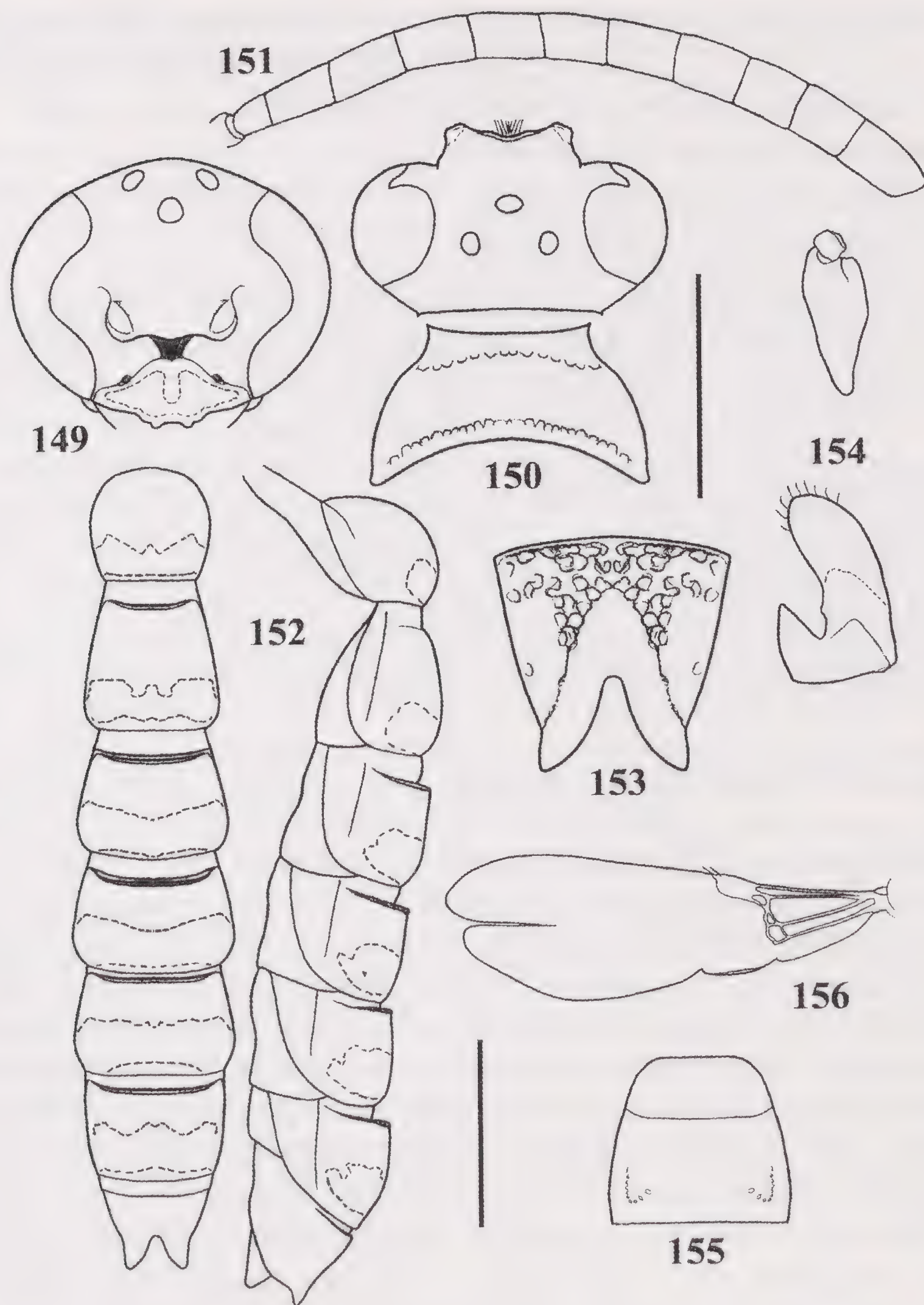
Derivatio nominis: from the typical locality.

Note. The paratype is in poor conditions, lacking the head and final hind tarsomeres. It differs from *M. lybica* and *M. maura* Boni Bartalucci, 1999 because of the shape of the pterostigma and want of any traces of veins of the apical cells on the fore wing; from *lybica* also because of the shape of the propodeum and 1st tergum in dorsal aspect and from *maura* because of the presence of a median sulcus on the propodeal disk.

The holotype mainly differs from *lybica* and *maura* in the shape of the head, clypeus (frontal aspect), 1st tergum and 7th tergum (dorsal aspect), and above all because of the strong, high step along the gradulus of the 3th to 6th terga (best in lateral aspect); the last character can be found, quite less stressed, in *M. swalei* (Turner, 1912) too, which strongly differs from *bambeyana* in the shape of the head (sub triangular and higher than wide), clypeus, dense and long silver hair covering the SAL and supraclypeal area, pronotal border without antero ventral teeth, 1st and 7th terga, genitalia and the white colour of the light markings.

Poecilotiphia Cameron, 1902

Poecilotiphia Cameron, 1902: 274 [species typus: *Poecilotiphia albomaculata* Cameron, 1902; lectotype ♂: India = "Deesa 10.98/ *Poecilotiphia albomaculata* Cam.



Figs. 149-156: Figs. 149-154 = *Myzinella bambeyana* n. sp. ♂ (Holotype). 149: head, frontal aspect; 150: head and pronotum, dorsal aspect; 151: antenna from above; 152: metasoma, dorsal (left) and lateral (right) aspects; 153: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 154: paramere and volsella. Figs. 155-156 = *Myzinella bambeyana* n. sp. ♀ (Paratype). 155: forewing; 156: 1st and 2nd terga, dorsal aspect. Figs. 149-151: scale bar: 2 mm; figs. 153, 154: scale bar: 0.5 mm; figs. 152, 155, 156: scale bar: 1 mm

Type Deesa (autographic)/ Col. C. G. Nurse Collection 1920-72/ Type (rounded, red ringed label)/ Syntype (rounded, pale blue ringed label)/ B.M. Type Hym. 15.1532 / 1 of 2 syntypes *P. albomaculata* C. det. M.C. Day 1979/ *Lectotypus P. albomaculata* Cam.. Design Gorbatsky 1981" BMNH !]

Dermasoths: Gorbatsky (1979: 609-621)

Poecilotiphia: Gorbatsky (1981: 383-386)

Poecilotiphia: Boni Bartalucci (1999: 28-46)

The genus based by Cameron on *P. albomaculata* was first sunk by TURNER (1908) then newly raised up to the original rank by GORBATOVSKY (1981) in his fundamental work for a better knowledge of the Old World Myzininae; at the same time he sank *Dermasoths* Menozzi, 1940 as its junior synonym and following the NAGY's opinion (1970) ascribed first (1979) to *Dermasoths*, then (1981) to *Poecilotiphia* two South African taxa, *Braunsomeria atriceps* Turner, 1912 (a female) and *Myzine stigma* Turner, 1912 (a male); the examination of the relative holotypes has revealed as incorrect their attribution to *Poecilotiphia* Cameron, 1902; the former fulfils the original features of *Braunsomeria* as established by TURNER himself (1912) (mainly: the scutum completely hidden by the pronotal distal border) while the last should be ascribed to a different genus; ARGAMAN (1994) erected for it a new taxon name, *Zezelda*, unfortunately giving very poor and shallow grounds based only on the wing venation; at any way it will be the compulsory choice if a forthcoming analysis will confirm it. In account of that *Poecilotiphia* appears to be strictly palaeartic, where its meaning is as the same as KIMSEY (1990) gave to it about Chrysididae, i.e. southward up to Sahel and Somaliland (where a merging with Afrotropical taxa seems to occur) toward NW India through the Arabian peninsula. In a previous work (BONI BARTALUCCI 1999) two species were omitted: *P. diffinis* (Turner, 1908) from the Cabo Verde islands and *P. kristenseni* (Turner, 1912) from Ethiopia.

All the males have the posterior margin of the jugal lobe straight and subparallel to the jugal fold, so the lobe appears subrectangular; this can be considered a good and reliable autapomorphy for the genus.

We could arrange them in two species groups which mean exclusively practical expedients to get an identification key for the *nigripes* group; the distinctive characters so far detected seem not so heavy to justify a generic split, especially about the females too much weakly known.

- Group *albomaculata* Cameron, 1902. Widely spread through Mediterranean and Southern Palaearctic areas.

Females [*rousseli* (Guérin, 1838); *ciliata* (Morawitz, 1894); *lacteipennis* (E. Saunders, 1901); *hymalaiana* (Masi, 1933); *endecamera* (Menozzi, 1940); *lugubris* (Gorbatovsky, 1979); *mollis* (Gorbatovsky, 1979) are the females hitherto described]: weakly built (up to 10 mm); normally brown or light brown pigmented, sometimes with ferruginous shades on the metasoma; two bristles, as long as the element at most, on the ventral side of the basal fore tarsomere; MP 2-4, LP 2-3 segmented. It was referred MPs up to 5 segmented in some females of *P. rousseli* Guérin, 1838 (BONI BARTALUCCI 1994:12).

Males: size up to 12-13 mm at best; subelliptic placoids only at the base of the five last flagellomeres at most; median flagellomeres less than twice longer than thick; height of digitus normally as long as or more than $\frac{1}{4}$ the height of the volsella (in one case is $\frac{1}{5}$, but it lacks the strong sword-like process); the sword-like process, lacking in five species, as long as $\frac{6}{10}$ the height of the volsella at most. 29 species so far recorded.

- Group *nigripes* Guérin, 1837. North African species to Sahel; only *nigripes* seems so far to lodge in SW Asia (Israel).

Females [*nigripes*, *dakarensis* (Du Buysson, 1910) and *mogadorensis* (Turner, 1911) only described]: heavily built (up to 15 mm); black pigmented with bright ferruginous red metasoma; eight to ten (*mogadorensis*) long bristles, as long as the three basal tarsomeres jointly, on the ventral side of the basal fore tarsomere; MP 5, LP 3-4 segmented.

Males: size up to 17 - 18 mm; longitudinal placoids concerning up to the last seven flagellomeres and mostly through their entire length; median flagellomeres twice or more longer than thick; height of digitus always less than $\frac{1}{4}$ the height of the volsella, which always presents a very strong sword-like process as long as $\frac{3}{4}$ the height of the volsella. 4 species recorded.

Group *albomaculata*

***Poecilotiphia subpetiolata* (Cameron, 1907)**

Plesia subpetiolatus Cameron, 1907: 136 [Lectotype ♂: "Quetta 8.02/ *Plesia subpetiolatus* Cam. type Quetta (autographic)/ Type (rounded with outer red ring)/ P. Cameron Coll. 1914-110 / B.M. Type Hym. 15.1513/ Syntype (rounded with outer blue

ring) / *Plesia subpetiolata* Cam ♂ det M.C. Day 1978/ Lectotypus *Plesia subpetiolatus* Cameron, 1907 ♂ Gorbатовsky 1978 (red)/ *Dermasoths subpetiolatus* (Cam) Gorbатовsky det 1978" BMNH !]

Material.

- ♂: Pakistan = "*Quetta* / *Plesia subpetiolatus* Cam. type *Quetta* (autographic)/ Type (rounded with outer red ring) / P.Cameron Coll.1914-110 / Syntype (rounded with outer blue ring) / *Dermasoths subpetiolatus* (Cam) Gorbатовsky det 1978 " BMNH (1); "*Quetta* / Col. C.G.Nurse Collection 1920-72/ Syntype (rounded with outer blue ring)/ *Dermasoths subpetiolatus* (Cam) Gorbатовsky det 1978" BMNH (1); "*Quetta* 8.02/ Col. C.G.Nurse collection 1920-72" BMNH (1); "*Quetta* 6.03/ Col. C.G.Nurse collection 1920-72" BMNH (2); "*Quetta* / Col. C.G.Nurse collection 1920-72" BMNH (1)

Male: figs. 157 – 164 (from lectotype).

Black and yellow. Genal bridge 1/3 OF. Weak placoids at the base of the last four flagellomeres. Propleurae not prominent. Metapleurae with few strong horizontal wrinkles. Propodeal disk strongly and roughly sculptured, single pits not detectable; its horizontal area very narrow and its declining area almost perpendicular to the main axis of the body. Strong dilated bristles on the distal borders of the 2nd to 6th sterna and sides of 2nd to 6th terga.

Note. Similar in appearance to *P. parvula* Smith, 1855, the specimens here quoted differ from the latter having different shape of the head in frontal aspect, a deeper notch between the SAL, different clypeus with a deeper notch on its ventral border, no tooth on the anteroventral corner of the pronotum, dilated bristles on the sides of the terga (lacking in *parvula*), narrower lobes and larger notch of the 7th tergum in dorsal aspect, different cuspis of the volsella, different paramere.

Two specimens with the label "*Quetta* 8.02" actually are referred to *P. contrastata* (Guiglia, 1963).

Poecilotiphia contrastata (Guiglia, 1963)

Meria contrastata Guiglia: 237-240 (Holotype ♂, Israel = "Beerot Jizhak 25.V.1947, Bytinsky-Salz", TAM)

Material.

- ♂: Egypt = "Egypt: Sinai Wadi Sadr (50 air km W Suez) 20 May 1993 Coll A.Mochi" MZUF (1)

Israel = Paratype "Palestine, Beerot Jizhak, 25.V.1947, Bytinsky-Salz" MSNG (1) !; "Palestin Revivim, 13.VI Bytinsky-Salz" BMNH (2)

Oman = "Oman Dhofar Wadi Ashawq 01.IV.2000 16°53'58"N-53°46'31"E m 60 leg F.Strumia & P.L.Scaramozzino" MSNP (1); "id., 4.IV.2000" MSNP (2); "Oman Dhofar, second watering place 07.IX.2000, 440 ft. 17°04'69"N-54°53'39"E, leg. M.Generani" MSNP (1)

Pakistan = "Quetta 8.02/ Col. C.G.Nurse Collection 1920-72", BMNH (2)

Note. Some time ago it was established the synonymy of *Meria contrastata* Guiglia, 1962 with *Plesia subpetiolata* Cameron, 1907 on the basis of a loaned specimen from the typical series of the latter at BMNH (BONI BARTALUCCI 1994: 16-17); the examination of lectotype and paralectotypes of the Cameron's species forces to cancel that synonymy, so restoring the former taxon to the status of autonomous, valid species.

***Poecilotiphia ruvida* n. sp.**

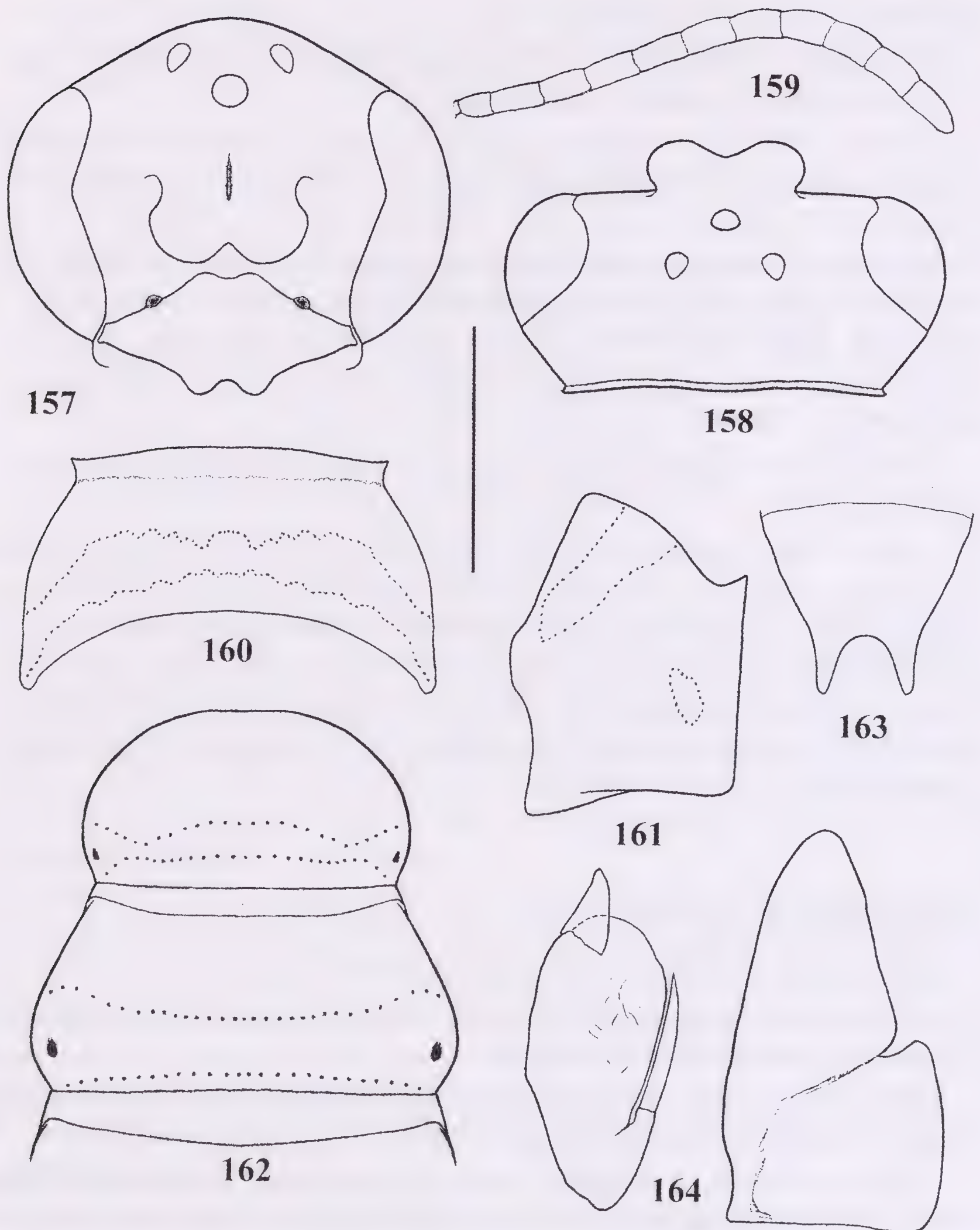
Holotype ♂: Senegal = "Senég." MHNG.

Paratypes ♂♂, Senegal = "Senég." MHNG (1); "Senegal, Bandia 29.03.80, Sigwalt leg." MHNP (1).

Male: figs. 164 – 171 (from the holotype). Measurements: body length = mm 7.5; fore wing length = mm 5.0.

Black and yellow. Yellow: most of clypeal disk, foreborder of the SAL, base of mandibles, two large transversal spots on the fore border and one stripe on the apical border of the pronotal disk, a median spot on the scutum, scutellum and metanotum, one spot on the mesepisternum, tarsi, fore surface of tibiae and tips of femurs, continuous stripe with sinuous fore profile on the 1st to 6th terga, two large spots on the 7th tergum.

Head. The length of the GB 1/3 the length of the OF. SAL fused with a very shallow notch, almost perpendicular to the frontal surface



Figs. 157-164: = *Poecilotiphia subpetiolata* ♂ (Lectotype). 157: head, frontal aspect; 158: head, dorsal aspect; 159: flagellum; 160: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 161: pronotum, lateral; 162: 1st & 2nd metameres, dorsal; 163: 7th tergum, dorsal; 164: volsella & paramere.
Figs. 157-158, 160-163: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 159: scale bar: 2 mm; fig. 164: scale bar: 0.5 mm

in lateral aspect; deep large pit at their base; weak basal placoids on the last four flagellomeres.

Mesosoma. Weak, regular keel along the fore border of the pronotal disk; declining surface of the propodeum clearly concave; upper metapleurae with strong horizontal wrinkles.

Metasoma. Strong flattened bristles on the rear border of the sterna and 6th tergum, only on the sides of the rear border of the 2nd to 5th terga; surface of the lobes of the epipygium distinctly concave.

The integument of the entire body (but a small area on the 1st tergum) completely and densely pitted; the distance among pits always less than their diameter; propodeum roughly sculptured.

Variability: the second specimen at MHNG gets to 8.5 mm, while the specimen from MNHP is 7.0 mm long and lacks the spots on scutum and scutellum.

Female: unknown.

Distribution: the typical locality.

Ecology: unknown.

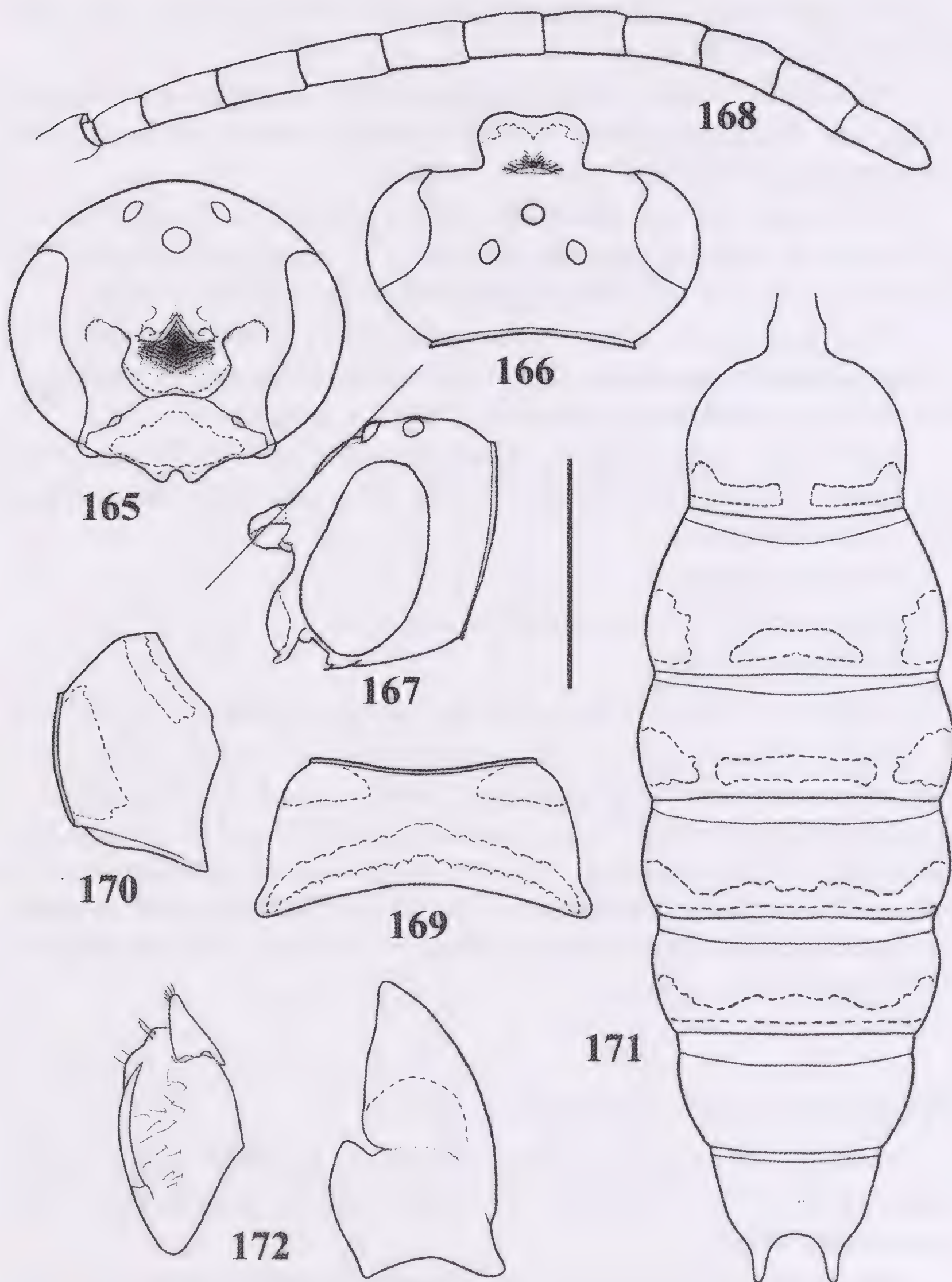
Derivatio nominis: from the coarse integument of the body.

Note. The species is well characterized by the coarse punctuation all over the body and the deep “fossa” at the base of the SAL, as similar as it happens in *P. aegyptiaca* Guérin, 1837 and *P. oasicola* Boni Bartalucci, 1999; from both of them *ruvida* is well distinguished by strong differences in the shape of the head, pronotum and genitalia; from the former it considerably differs in the shape of 7th tergum and 8th sternum too.

***Poecilotiphia dhofarensis* n. sp.**

Holotype ♂: Oman = “Oman Dhofar, Rd NW Hajaif 03-IV-2001, 17°14'55”N – 54°01'53” E, 2960 ft, leg. [F.]Strumia & P. Scaramozzino” MSNP

Paratypes ♂♂: Oman = “Oman Dhofar, Hajif 600-700 m 3.X.1999, 17.15'N-54.04'E P.L.Scaramozzino leg.” MSNP (3); “Oman Dhofar, Hajif 31-X-1999, Rd. Mt. 600/700 17.15'N-54.04'E leg. F.Strumia” MSNP (6); “Oman Dhofar Rd.47 dint. Arift 28.VIII.2000, 3410 ft., 16°50'31N/53°22E, leg. M.Generani & P.L.Scaramozzino” MSNP (4); “Oman Dhofar Jibjat 29.VIII.2000, 3117 ft. leg. M.Generani &



Figs. 165-172: = *Poecilotiphia ruvida* n. sp. ♂ (Holotype). 165: head, frontal aspect; 166: head, dorsal aspect; 167: head, lateral aspect; 168: antenna from above; 169: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 170: pronotum, lateral aspect; 171: metasoma, dorsal aspect; 172: volsella and paramere. Figs. 165-171: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 172: scale bar: 0.5 mm

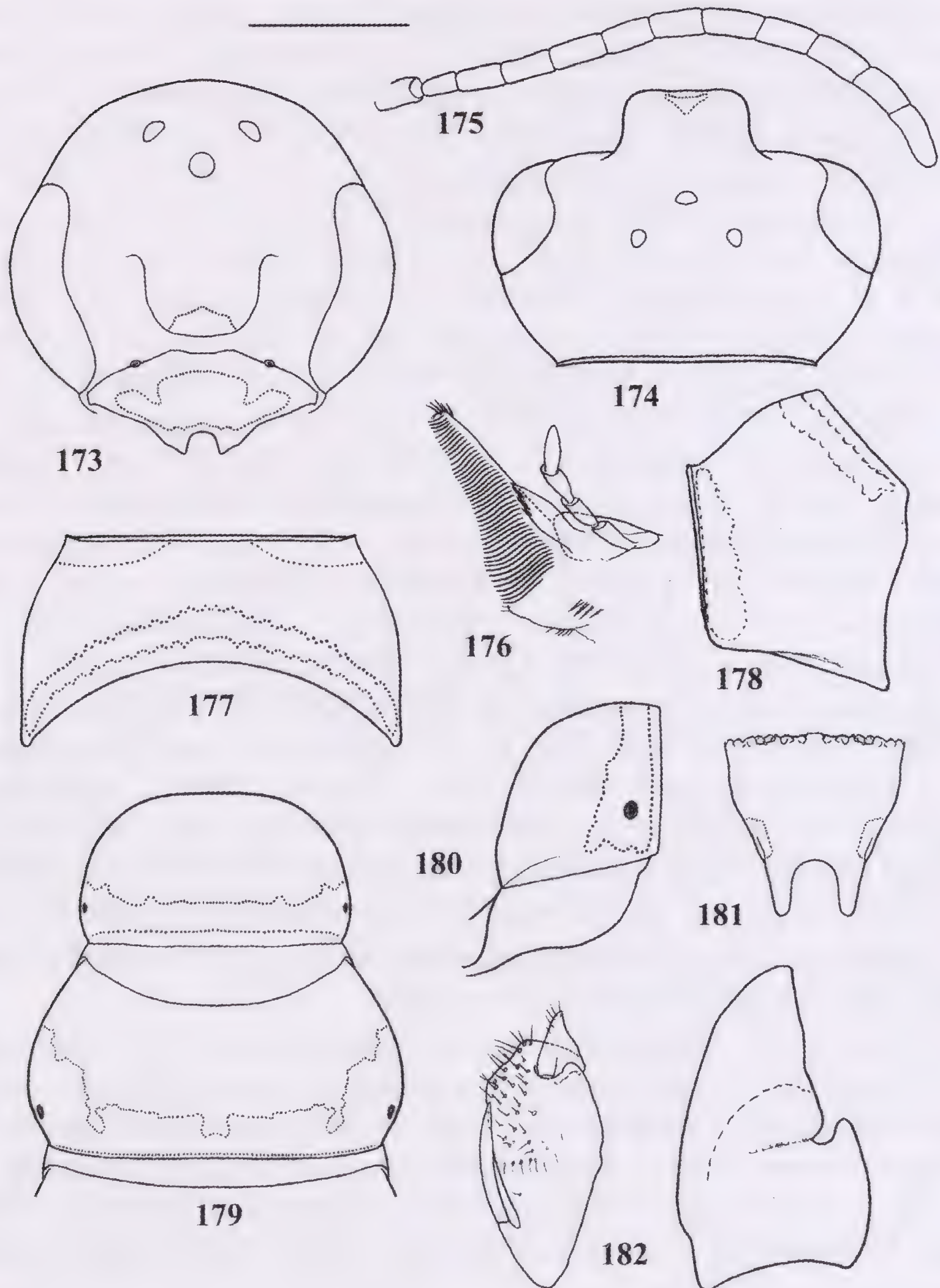
P.L.Scaramozzino" MSNP (5); "Oman Dhofar Jibjat 17°15'61"N–54°29'54"E, 29-VIII-2000, 3100 ft, leg. F.Strumia" MSNP (11); "Oman Dhofar Hilall/Arift 08.IX.2000, 3400 ft., 16°48'N/53°33'E, leg. M.Generani & P.L.Scaramozzino" MSNP (1); "Oman Dhofar Wadi Ashawq (al Mughsayl) 11.IX.2000, 190 ft., 16°53'88"N/53°46'31"E leg. M.Generani & P.L.Scaramozzino" MSNP (1); "Oman 2001 – Dhofar Wadi Ashawq 01.IV 16°53'88"N/53°46'31"E leg. Strumia & P. Scaramozzino", MSNG (1); "Oman Dhofar 2001 Wadi Salafan – Jibjat 17°14'53N/54°32'52E mt 880 2.IV leg. M.Generani & P.L.Scaramozzino" MSNP (3); "Oman Dhofar Rd NW Hajaif 03-IV-2001, 17°14'55"N–54°01'53" E, 2960 ft., leg. Strumia & P.Scaramozzino", MSNG (5), MSNP (25), MZUF (5); "Oman Dhofar, Rd. W of Hajaif mt.800 3.IV.2001, 17°14'71N/53°57'43E, leg. M.Generani & P.L. Scaramozzino, MSNP (1); "Oman Dhofar Wadi Ashaswq 4-IV-2001, 16°53'88"N-53°46'31"E, m 60, leg. F.Strumia & PL.Scaramozzino" MSNP (1); "Oman Dhofar Rd 31 North of Queiroon (up) 17°16'23N/54°04'95E m.820 26.IX.2001 Leg. M.Generani & P.L.Scaramozzino" MSNP (3); "Oman Dhofar Rd.W of Hajaif 17°14'53N/54°01'67E, m. 910, 26.IX.2001, leg. M.Generani & P.L.Scaramozzino" MSNP (4); "Oman Dhofar Mughasail 16.53'01N-53.46'47E 05-X-2001, mt.30, leg. F.Strumia" MSNP (1); "Oman Dhofar Small wadi back of Mughasayl 16.53'01N/53.46'47E, 8.X.2001, mt.30, leg. M.Generani & P.L.Scaramozzino" MSNP (2)

Male: figs 172 – 181 (from holotype). Measurements: body length = 9.5 mm; fore wing length = 6.5 mm.

Black, yellow and reddish brown. Reddish brown: the underside of the flagellum. Yellow: most of the clypeus, a spot on the SAL, base of the mandibles, a small spot on the postscutellum of the metanotum and metasternal lobes, a large spot on the metapleurae, underside of the femurs and most of tibiae and tarsi, a distal band on the 1st to 6th terga, two spots on 7th tergum, three spots on 2nd and 6th sterna, distal band on 3rd to 5th sterna.

Head. Genal bridge length about half the hypostomal length; SAL completely fused; elliptic placoids only detectable on the last two flagellomeres.

Mesosoma. Regular keel along the fore border of the pronotal disk; propleurae weakly swollen; metapleurae with weakly impressed horizontal wrinkles.



Figs. 173-182: = *Poecilotiphia dhofarensis* n. sp. ♂ (Holotype). 173: head, frontal aspect; 174: head, dorsal aspect; 175: antenna; 176: glossa and paraglossa, lateral aspect; 177: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 178: pronotum, lateral aspect; 179: 1st & 2nd metameres, dorsal aspect; 180: 1st metamere, lateral aspect; 181: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 182: volsella & paramere.

Figs. 173-174, 177-181: scale bar: 1 mm; fig. 175: scale bar: 2 mm; figs. 176-182: scale bar: 0.5 mm

Metasoma. Strong flattened bristles on the rear borders of the 2nd to 6th sterna and 6th tergum and only sideways on the 2nd to 5th terga.

Dense pits, without any space among them, only on the propodeal surface.

Variability: the specimens vary in size from 7 mm to 10 mm and very little about the colour patterns.

Female: unknown.

Distribution: Oman.

Ecology: unknown.

Derivatio nominis: from the typical locality.

Note. This species is sympatric and synchronic with *P. scorteccii* (Guiglia, 1968), having the same size and general appearance; the figs. 183-190, drawn from the paratype at MSNG, show their distinction about the shape of clypeus, glossa, pronotum, 1st and 2nd metameres and volsella.

P. dhofarensis is well recognized into the genus by the large notch on the ventral border of the clypeus; moreover it differs from the other species of the genus having either completely fused SAL or a very shallow notch at the most as follows (only the main differences are given): *aegyptiaca* (Guérin, 1837), *oasicola* Boni Bartalucci, 1999 and *ruvida* n. sp. have deep pit at the SAL base; *rousseli* (Guérin, 1838) and *parvula* (Smith, 1855) have strongly prominent propleurae, different head, pronotum and 7th tergum; *oraniensis* (Lucas, 1849) lacks any pronotal keel and has different head and 7th tergum; *rugosopunctata* (Tournier, 1889), *collarinata* Boni Bartalucci, 1997 and *excavata* Boni Bartalucci, 1999 have different head, pronotum, 7th tergum and genitalia; *diffinis* (Turner, 1908) has strongly different head, pronotum, 2nd SMC on the forewing, metasoma and genitalia; *kristenseni* (Turner, 1912) has placoids on the last four flagellomeres and different head, pronotum and genitalia.

Group *nigripes*

Male Identification Key

- 1 Ratio between width and height (at the middle of the post gradular surface of the element) of the 3nd metatergum: 3 or more 2

- Ratio: from 2 to 2.5 at the most. 3
- 2 Seven apical flagellomeres with longitudinal placoids; mostly black. NE Africa and Israel *nigripes* (Guérin, 1837)
- Six apical flagellomeres with longitudinal placoids; mostly light coloured. Senegal to Tchad *dakarensis* (Du Buysson, 1910)
- 3 Rear borders of the metameres without strong flattened bristles. Maroc *mogadorensis* (Turner, 1911)
- Strong flattened bristles on the rear border of the metameres. 4
- 4 3rd to 6th metasterna with a deep transversal slit at its middle; pronotal disk (or collar) with a well produced keel on its fore border; scattered and shorter bristles on the metasomal surface; straight upper profile of the cuspis. Sahel *sahelica* Boni Bartalucci, 1999
- metasterna without slits; pronotal disk without keel but only bluntly angled; long bristles densely covering all the metasomal surface; rounded upper profile of the cuspis. Canary islands *trichogastra* n. sp.

***Poecilotiphia trichogastra* n. sp.**

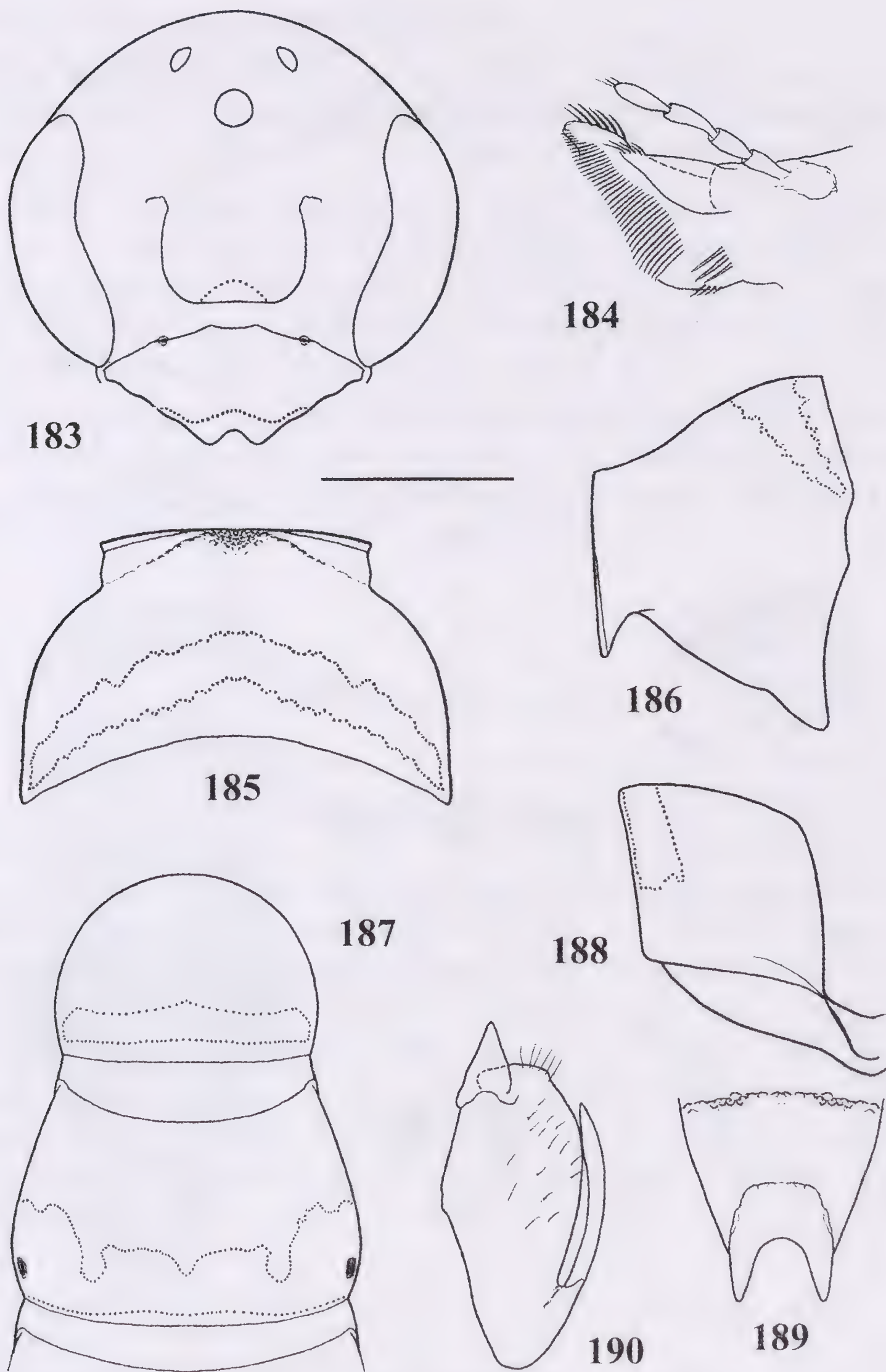
Holotype ♂: Spain = “Islas Canarias, Tenerife, A.Cabrera; in the reverse of the label: *Midano 10.VIII.1911*” MNCN.

Male: figs. 190 – 198 (from holotype). Measurements: body length = mm 12.0 ; fore wing length: mm 9.5

Black, brown and yellow. Brown: apex of mandibles, flagellum, coxae, trochanters and femurs. Yellow: base of mandibles, two small spots on the fore border and a narrow strip on the apical border of the pronotal disk, tips of the femurs, tibiae, tarsi, an irregular very narrow apical stripe on 1st tergum, two lateral spots and one on the middle of the apical border of the 2nd to 6th terga, two lateral and one median small spots on the apical border of 2nd to 5th sterna.

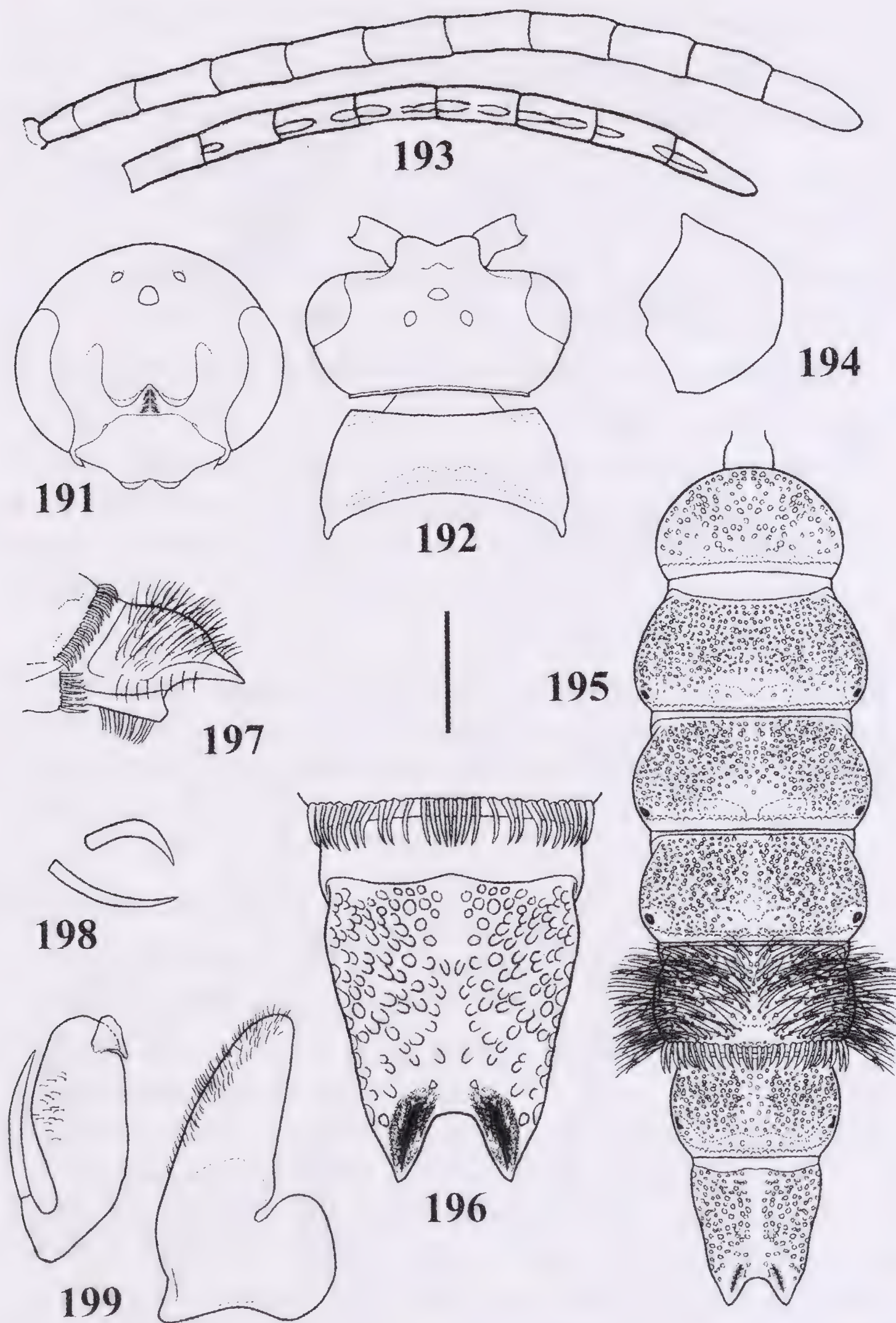
Head, mesosoma and metasoma regularly and densely pitted (more coarsely on the propodeum). Pronotal fore border without prominent keel. Upper metapleurae horizontally wrinkled. Long silver bristles all over the body; the bristles on the metasoma as long as the last hind tarsomere.

Female: unknown.



Figs. 183-190: = *Poecilotiphia scorteccii* ♂ (Paratype). 183: head, frontal aspect; 184: glossa & paraglossa, lateral aspect; 185: pronotum, dorsal aspect; 186: pronotum, lateral aspect; 187: 1st & 2nd metameres, dorsal aspect; 188: 1st metamere, lateral aspect; 189: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 190: volsella.

Figs. 183, 185-189: scale bar: 1 mm; figs. 184, 190: scale bar: 0.5 mm



Figs. 191-199: = *Poecilotiphia trichogastra* n. sp. ♂ (Holotype). 191: head, frontal aspect head and pronotum, dorsal aspect; 193: antenna, from above and below; 194: pronotum, lateral aspect; 195: metasoma, dorsal aspect (hair and bristles figured only on 5th tergum); 196: 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; 197: 7th tergum, lateral aspect; 198 : tergal (above) and sternal (below) flattened bristles; 199: volsella and paramere. Figs. 191-195,197: scale bar: 1 mm; figs. 196,199: scale bar: 0.5 mm; fig. 198: scale bar: 0.25 mm

Distribution: typical locality.

Ecology: unknown.

Derivatio nominis: from the long, dense bristles on the metasoma.

Note. The taxon well belongs to the species group of *nigripes* because of the structure of the flagellum and volsella, which are also its best autapomorphies together with the presence of the strong flattened bristles on its apical borders and long bristles on the whole surface of the metasoma, unique into the genus.

Moreover it also differs from *nigripes* and *dakarensis* in the much more slender metasoma, from *sahelica* in the lacking the metasternal slits, from *mogadorensis* in the different shape of the head and metasoma.

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ABSTRACT

Eight new species (*Mesa picta*, *Meria anatolica*, *M. micruroides*, *M. pulchella*, *Myzinella bambeyana*, *Poecilotiphia ruvida*, *P. dhofarensis* and *P. trichogastra*) are described; lectotypes and paralectotypes of *Mesa peringuey* Saussure, 1892 and *Mesa hottentotta* Saussure, 1892 are designed.

The synonymy of *Elis* (*Mesa*) *fusiformis* Turner, 1916 with *Myzine haemorrhoidalis* Guérin, 1837, which is ascribed to the genus *Mesa* Saussure, 1892, is established. The generic synonymies of *Xylunka* Argaman, 1994 e *Taywola* Argaman, 1994 with *Mesa* Saussure, 1892 are also proposed.

The specific synonymies of *Meria rufiventris* Klug, 1810, *Meria abdominalis* Guérin, 1839 and *Meria hottentotta* Saussure, 1892 with *Apis fusiformis* De Geer, 1778, of *Myzine politissima* Turner, 1911 with *Myzine cingulata* Gerstaecker, 1857 and of *Myzine consanguinea* Turner, 1912 with *Myzine rufonigra* Bingham, 1911 are established; all of them, together with *Myzine rufinodis* Turner, 1910, are ascribed to *Meria* Illiger, 1807.

Meria discussa Guiglia, 1973, previously considered junior synonym of *Meria quadrimaculata* Cameron, 1902, is newly raised to the species rank. *Braunsomeria atriceps* Turner, 1912 and *Myzine stigma* Turner, 1912, previously included in *Dermasothos* Menozzi, 1940 (= *Poecilotiphia* Cameron, 1902), are respectively restored to the original Turner's genus and ascribed to *Zezelda* Argaman, 1994. The synonymy between *Meria contrastata* Guiglia, 1963 and *Plesia subpetiolata* Cameron, 1907, established by Boni Bartalucci in 1994, is cancelled, restoring the former to the rank of valid species.

The supposed males of *Mesa donaldsoni* Fox, 1896 and *Meria caspica* Radoszkowsky, 1887 and the females of *Mesa attica* Gorbatsky, 1981 and *Meria arabica* Guérin, 1837 are described for the first time.

The holotypes of *Apis fusiformis*, *Meria cingulata*, *Myzine rufonigra*, *Meria discussa* and *Meria similis*, the lectotypes of *Meria caspica* Radoszkowsky, 1886, *Meria askhabadensis* Radoszkowsky, 1886, *Meria quadrimaculata* and the paralectotypes of *Meria caspica* and *Mesa palestinella* Guiglia, 1963 are newly described.

A dichotomous key for the males of the genus *Meria* with partially red metasoma is also given.

The genus *Poecilotiphia* is proposed to be divided in two purely expedient groups, referred to *P. albomaculata* Cameron, 1902 and *P. nigripes* (Guérin, 1837) respectively; the identification key for the males of the latter one is given.

RIASSUNTO

Terzo contributo alla conoscenza delle Myzininae del vecchio mondo (Hymenoptera, Tiphidae)

Vengono descritte otto nuove specie (*Mesa picta*, *Meria anatolica*, *M. micruroides*, *M. pulchella*, *Myzinella bambeyana*, *Poecilotiphia ruvida*, *P. dhofarensis*, *P. trichogastera*) e designati i lectotipi di *Mesa peringuey* Saussure, 1892 e *Mesa hottentotta* Saussure, 1892.

Sono stabilite le sinonimie specifiche di *Meria rufiventris* Klug, 1810, *Meria abdominalis* Guérin, 1839 e *Meria hottentotta* Saussure, 1892 con *Meria fusiformis* (De Geer, 1778); di *Meria politissima* Turner, 1911 con *Myzine cingulata* Gerstaecker, 1857; di *Myzine consanguinea* Turner, 1912 con *Myzine rufonigra* Bingham, 1911; tutti questi taxa, insieme a *Myzine rufinodis* Turner, 1910, vengono attribuiti al genere *Meria* Illiger, 1807.

Myzine haemorrhoidalis Guérin, 1837 viene attribuita al genere *Mesa* Saussure, 1892 e nel contempo viene stabilita la sua sinonimia con *Elis (Mesa) fusiformis* Turner, 1916. Vengono proposte anche le sinonimie generiche di *Xylunka* Argaman, 1994 e *Taywola* Argaman, 1994 con *Mesa* Saussure, 1892.

Viene di nuovo elevata a rango di specie, disconoscendone la sinonimia con *Meria quadrimaculata* Cameron, 1902, la specie *Meria discussa* Guiglia, 1973, mentre la specie *Braunsomeria atriceps* Turner, 1912 viene nuovamente attribuita al genere originario, correggendone l'inclusione fatta da Nagy (1970) nel genere *Dermasothos* Menozzi, 1940 (= *Poecilotiphia* Cameron, 1902); così anche per *Myzine stigma* Turner, 1912 per la quale viene confermata provvisoriamente l'attribuzione al genere *Zezelda* Argaman, 1994.

Viene cancellata la sinonimia di *Meria contrastata* Guiglia, 1963 con *Plesia subpetiolata* Cameron, 1907 precedentemente stabilita da Boni Bartalucci nel 1994, restituendo ad essa il rango di specie valida.

I supposti maschi di *Mesa donaldsoni* Fox, 1896 e *Meria caspica* Radoszkowsky, 1887 e le femmine di *Mesa attica* Gorbatovsky, 1981 e *Meria arabica* Guérin, 1837 vengono descritti per la prima volta.

Vengono ridescritti gli olotipi di *Apis fusiformis*, *Meria cingulata*, *Myzine rufo-nigra*, *Meria discussa* e *Meria similis*; i lectotipi di *Meria caspica*, *Meria askhabadensis* Radoszkowsky, 1886, *Meria quadrimaculata*; i paralectotipi di *Meria caspica* e *Mesa palestinella* Guiglia, 1963.

Viene fornita la chiave dicotomica per i maschi delle specie di *Meria* con il metasoma più o meno estesamente colorato di rosso-ferrugineo e viene infine proposta una divisione puramente strumentale dei maschi del genere *Poecilotiphia* in due gruppi di specie riferiti rispettivamente a *P. albomaculata* Cameron, 1902 e a *P. nigripes* (Guérin, 1837); del secondo viene fornita la chiave identificativa per i maschi.